OCEAN MARGIN EXCHANGE

OMEX II-II DATA SET

USERS' GUIDE

Data set and documentation compiled by
R.K. Lowry, Z. Loncar and A.J. Fairclough

Software interface written by
R.N. Cramer

OMEX II-II (1997-2000) was a multidisciplinary oceanographic research project focused on the Iberian Continental Margin under the third phase of the European Union Marine Science and Technology (MAST) programme (contract number MAS3-CT97-0076).

British Oceanographic Data Centre,
Proudman Oceanographic Laboratory,
Bidston Observatory, Bidston Hill,
Prenton CH43 7RA, United Kingdom.
http://www.bodc.ac.uk

Introduction

The OMEX II-II data set is a large and complex entity. It is fully understood that you, the user, confronted by such a product will be somewhat confused and bewildered with 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 we can to find your way around. It may help users of previous BODC shelf edge CD-ROM products (OMEX-I and LOIS (SES)) to know that the format and ‘feel’ of this CD-ROM is very similar to them.

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. Indeed, there are html elements within the *Acrobat* document that will automatically invoke your web browser when they are activated. 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. We are confident that you will agree that 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. First, 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 7.0 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. Application software may also be written against the ‘kit form’ database, to provide users who do not use database systems with access to the data.

The *Acrobat* document has been built with an index that provides a complete lexicographic search facility. To take advantage of this you must have the search-enabled version of the *Acrobat* reader. This is freely available from Adobe’s web site (http://www.adobe.com).

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

Contents