

COMMUNICATING EARTH: OPEN ACCESS IN EARTH SCIENCES

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Earth sciences are among the most data-intensive sciences, with a remarkable cooperative work at international level. Data collecting and experiments are often expensive and last long years. So, logistics and system costs are very high.

A main reason for publishing data and results is to maximize access and enable potential reuse in many more contexts than with traditional communication means. Fast availability of data and results is a must that cannot attend the traditional publishers' timeline.

Open access is the simplest choice to facilitate fast access to and reuse of scholarly communication and data about Earth sciences: publications and related primary data have to be freely accessible in the broadest and fastest way. A system of OAI-PMH-compliant data and service providers is the most effective way to improve the dissemination and impact of research.

CILEA (a non-profit consortium of Italian universities) supports Open Access and is among the first signatories of the Berlin Declaration. Since 2003 CILEA operates the **AePIC** service, providing innovative solutions for electronic publishing and digital libraries at very competitive costs and timetable, employing open-source and *OAI-PMH*-compliant software. In the field of Earth sciences, CILEA-AePIC holds a significant role. It provides technical support and hosting to **Earth prints** <http://www.earth-prints.org/>, the open archive created and maintained by **Istituto Nazionale di Geofisica e Vulcanologia** (INGV) with the collaboration of **Programma Nazionale Ricerche in Antartide**. Earth-prints started in the last quarter of 2004 and grows rapidly and steadily. The goal of this repository is to collect, capture, disseminate and preserve the results of research in the fields of Atmosphere, Cryosphere, Hydrosphere and Solid Earth.

In the last months CILEA-AePIC is working on the new archive of National Research Council - Research area of Potenza, called **ArchEnviMat**, that will allow scientists from Potenza Research Area to post and disseminate on-line, at no cost, their scientific work in electronic format.