

GRIIDC: Building a FAIR Multidisciplinary Data Repository out of an Environmental Disaster

GRIIDC is a multidisciplinary data repository created after the Deepwater Horizon oil spill to preserve post-spill research funded by the Gulf of Mexico Research Initiative (GoMRI). Due to the immediate need of the repository, the GRIIDC team focused development on the quick ingest of data and metadata while researchers were collecting data. GRIIDC had the challenging task of developing a site and using a metadata schema that would allow for a wide variety of data types to be submitted. Additionally, ten years ago, many researchers did not have a lot of experience sharing data as open data was a new concept. GRIIDC worked with researchers through training workshops and webinars to help them organize their data and understand the importance of sharing data. Despite these challenges, GRIIDC has constantly been improving the data management system and the data package review process to implement FAIR data principles, ensuring data are findable, accessible, interoperable, and reusable. Although the GoMRI program has ended, GRIIDC continues to store and share data from other programs including the Centers of Excellence programs for Texas, Mississippi, and Florida; the National Academy of Sciences Gulf Research Program; and the Harte Research Institute for Gulf of Mexico Studies. GRIIDC will continue to evolve and improve the site to serve these programs and future users to ensure data are FAIR.