

Changing Data publishing style on Ecological Research Data Paper

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Publishing Data Paper is one of powerful solution to support mechanism on data share, re-use (Costello, et al, 2013; Osawa 2019). Ecological Research Data Paper was launched at 2011 based on the special efforts mainly by Japan Long Term Ecological Research (JaLTER) community. From 2011, we successfully published about 50 Data Papers from Ecological Research. Although there are many academic journals have Data Paper which covered biodiversity science in recent years (<https://www.gbif.org/data-papers>, accessed at 1, Aug., 2020), Ecological Research was launched Data Paper at very early stage in this field. The number of Data Paper publishing was increasing and increasing in this 5 years (average over 7 papers published per year). In the volume 35, (from issue 5), we could publish the first special issue on Data Paper (Data rescue – collection of precious and laborious in situ observed data) which would publish about 20 Data Papers. Increasing Data Papers is our pleasure of course, however, that also cause the cost increasing for editing. Publishing Data Paper required additional efforts on standard articles such as data store, editing metadata and making html file for Ecological Research Data Paper Archives (http://db.cger.nies.go.jp/JaLTER/ER_DataPapers, accessed at 1, Aug., 2020) which is data archive web site for Ecological Research Data Paper.

Editorial board of Ecological Research decided to change the publishing style on Data Paper from this special issue to relieve that cost increasing. Of course we would put importance on conveniences for both authors and readers. Essential points are below 2:

1) Publish detailed metadata in the literature as Data descriptor

All metadata could publish in the literature from this issue. Previously we could publish in the literature only abstract, detailed metadata could published from not literature but web service Ecological Research Data Paper Archives (http://db.cger.nies.go.jp/JaLTER/ER_DataPapers, accessed at 1, Aug., 2020). This type of detailed metadata, we would like to call “Data descriptor”. As a result, Data Paper could have more than one page same as standard articles. Since “Data descriptor” basically have reference list, citation system could find the literature cited in the Data Paper, which previously could not do.

2) Stop updating the Ecological Research Data Paper Archives

According to 1), we would like to stop updating the Ecological Research Data Paper Archives which previously stored detailed metadata as html document. To keep the accessibility on detailed metadata for non-member of Ecological Society of Japan, and/or subscriber on Ecological Research, author of Data Paper have an option to store the post print of detailed metadata (Data descriptor) at JaLTER data base which stored data itself. As a result, Data Paper could keep their open access for all potential users.

For more information about Data Papers, please see [https://esj-journals.onlinelibrary.wiley.com/pb-assets/assets/14401703/Guidelines_for_Data_Papers_Revised_07August2020-1597620823733.pdf].

Editorial board of Ecological Research is discussing a system improving for publishing Data Paper continuously. If you have an ideas and/or case for other journal, please let us know. We are looking forward to your submission of ecological data to our journal.

References

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- Osawa T. (2019) Perspectives on biodiversity informatics for ecology. *Ecological Research* 34:446–456.