

Activities on Virtual Laboratory in JMA

This paper reports on the activities of JMA on Virtual Laboratory.

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1. Status of a Virtual Laboratory in JMA

JMA has been operating its Virtual Resource Library (VRL) since May 2002, in response to the discussion of the –CGMS XXIX meeting. The VRL provides a Computer Aided Learning (CAL) tool for the use of satellite data named SATAID, accessory tools to enhance the use of SATAID, related documents such as users manuals, and learning materials based on SATAID for the purpose of enhancing the Virtual Laboratory (VL) as the server of satellite-focused training resources. Users are limited to NMHSs and requested authentication by means of user ID and password.

JMA has been trying to make VL widely known by taking advantage of promotional opportunities such as its training events for foreign satellite data users i.e. the “Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) Meteorological Training Course” and “International Seminar on MTSAT/LRIT Data Utilization”, etc. As SATAID software and the related learning materials are provided and used in those events, the users use VRL to get the latest SATAID software and related information. Information on users accessing to the VRL in JMA, that might contribute to evaluate the VL performance, has not yet been gathered.

SATAID, the main contents of JMA’s VRL, has been constantly improved. One of the current major developments is incorporating compatibility with data from other operators’ satellites such as GOES and MSG. JMA is working on this development using sample data from those satellites provided by NOAA and EUMETSAT. JMA is grateful to the two organizations for the provision of the sample data and their assistance.

JMA makes use of appropriate contents from VLs run by other organizations from time to time, especially in its training courses such as those described above. JMA also expresses gratitude to the VL operators for making available resources in their VLs.

2. Cooperation with the Commonwealth Bureau of Meteorology, Australia (CBoM)

JMA has been exploring the provision of near real-time data on VL taking account of user requirements. JMA is currently cooperating with CBoM, a VL partner, in establishing a server to provide near real-time satellite data. The server is to be operated by CBoM. CBoM and JMA are collaborating to develop the server based on an Internet technique produced by JMA and make ongoing improvements. Hokkaido University is also contributing to the development of the technique. ~~CBoM and On behalf of bodies for this cooperative activity, JMA and CBoM are most expresses an appreciation to grateful for~~ the University’s assistance.

CBoM ~~has recently~~ established a prototype near real-time imagery server in September 2003 and is currently operating it for evaluation. This prototype server provides the last 7 days of satellite imagery from GOES-9 in SATAID format. CBoM is working on furnishing it with a more sophisticated user interface. The server is expected to be launched by the time of CGMS XXXI meeting.

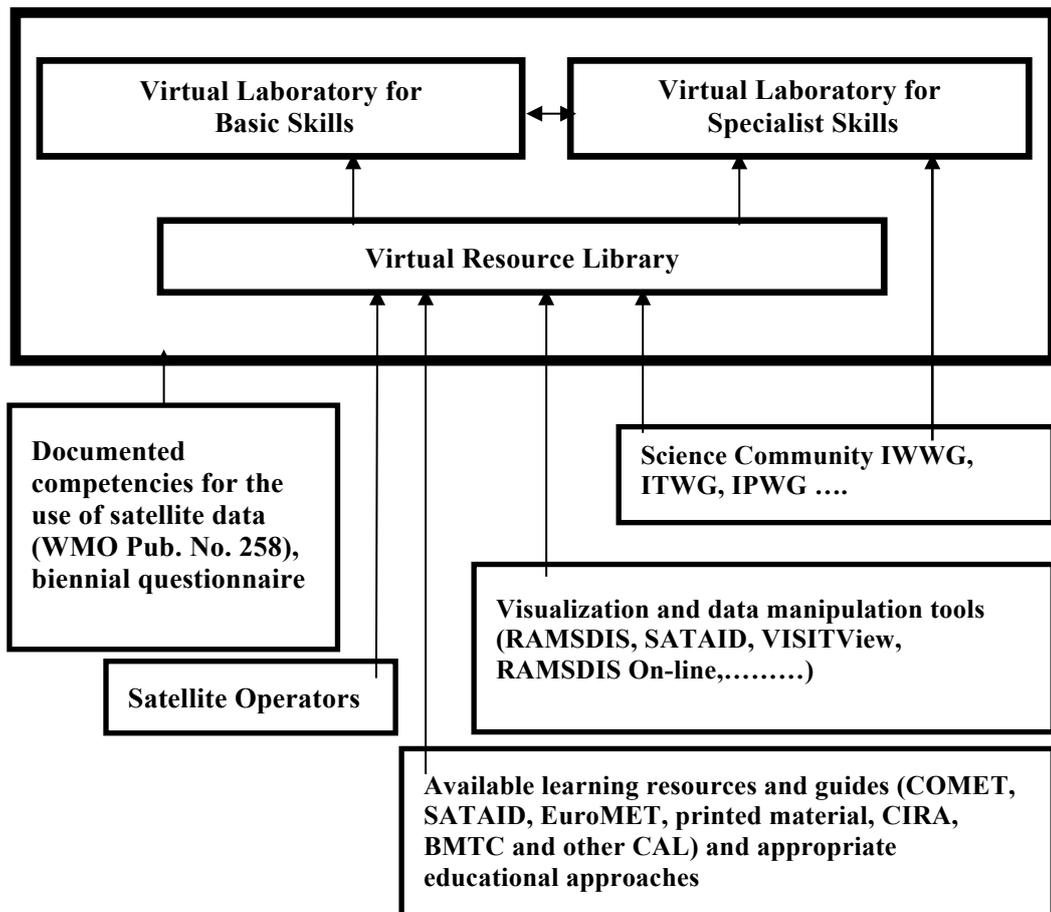


Figure 1: Schematic of the Virtual Laboratory