

World Ocean Database Project

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1. PROJECT SUMMARY

The “World Ocean Database Project” has the goal of creating the most comprehensive, global, scientifically quality-controlled ocean profile-plankton database possible with all data in one common format. Releases of this database include *World Ocean Database 2005*, *World Ocean Database 2001*, *World Ocean Database 1998*, and *World Ocean Atlas 1994*. Data for 29 variables are available including temperature, salinity, oxygen, nutrients, and tracers among others. There are approximately 7.9 million temperature and 2.6 million salinity profiles included in the most release of this database (*World Ocean Database 2005* (WOD05)).

The utility of NODC profile databases is given in Figure 1 which documents that NODC databases and products based on these databases have been cited more than 5,531 times during the past 25 years.

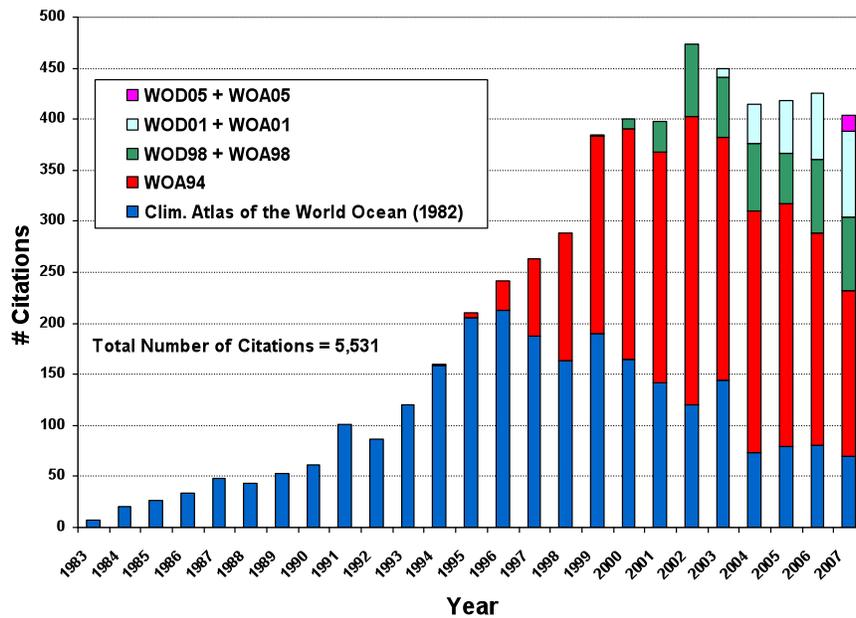


Figure 1. Time series of the number of citations as a function of year for NODC profile databases and products based on those databases.

NODC data and related products are used as initial and boundary conditions in ocean models and for ocean acoustic tomographic inversions and as “sea-truth” for verifying models among many other uses.

