Milestone 6.2: Detailed description of ACTRIS Service catalogue

Authors: Simone Gagliardi, Matilde Oliveri, Rosa Petracca, Sabine Philippin.

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1. Table of content

1. Introduction

ACTRIS is unique in its scope and service provision, filling a scientific and service gap in the RI landscape. This is why ACTRIS IMP supports the establishment of ACTRIS as a comprehensive European RI in disciplines currently not covered by any other RI. In particular, ACTRIS IMP aims to develop an extensive Catalogue of Services and high-quality operations, which will be openly available to a wide range of user groups, such as scientists, policy makers, funding agencies, educators and the private sector.

The Catalogue will be in the form of an online tool, which will provide users with easy, user-friendly access to all information on ACTRIS services.

Services in the Catalogue will be presented in a consistent and standardized way including: a description of each service, how the services can be requested, the estimated duration of the selection procedure (if any), the available logistic and support services, costs and fees (if any), duties and responsibilities of the users for using the facility's resources.

2. General aspects

Main features

The Catalogue will be defined on the basis of a list of general features and criteria, in particular:

- The Catalogue will be integrated within the new ACTRIS portal. In the website structure, it should be very visible and easily accessible;
- The Catalogue search portal will be user-oriented;
- The Catalogue will be connected to ACTRIS PASS (Platform for managing user access to ACTRIS ServiceS), a web-based tool which manages the access of users to services available via physical and remote access;
- The Catalogue will be connected to ACTRIS DVAS (Data discovery, Virtual Access and Services), a web interface which manages the virtual access of users to ACTRIS data and digital tools and services;
- The Catalogue will be regularly updated.

Searching options

A landscape research of the available catalogues developed by other RIs has been performed and it has allowed to identify two types of searching options in the different portals.

1. A cross-search based catalogue, with the use of different categories and key words. This type of search engine presents all available services and allows users to select a series of filters which progressively refine the research results. Examples of filters are:
   - Service type: digital services, experimental research, technical services, training opportunities, etc.
   - Research area: air quality, climate modelling, water cycle, ecosystems, etc.
   - Location: country, but also urban, or natural environment
   - Access type: physical, remote, virtual access
   - Modality: free or paid access

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- Target users: research, academia, private sector, etc.

2. One-way search catalogue: in this type of search engine, users are asked to provide a series of progressively detailed information, based on which the most appropriate services will be shown. By selecting one or more of the options, some ad-hoc results are provided to users. Examples of search levels are:
   - Platform type (observational platform, atmospheric simulation chamber, mobile platform, topical centre, data centre, ...)
   - Type of user (research, academia, private sector, pubic agency, etc.)
   - Research area of interest (air quality, climate modelling, water cycle, ecosystems, etc.)
   - Choice between physical, remote or virtual access

The ACTRIS Catalogue of Services is expected to be structured on the first type of search option. The choice will be based on different criteria. This search options is service-oriented, and will facilitate the user search given the multitude of available ACTRIS services. Importantly, this type of Catalogue of Services will be compatible with CaTRIS[1], the Catalogue of Research Infrastructure services. This will allow ACTRIS the possibility to link and be searchable via the CaTRIS catalogue and, therefore, will represent a clear added value in terms of visibility for the ACTRIS services.
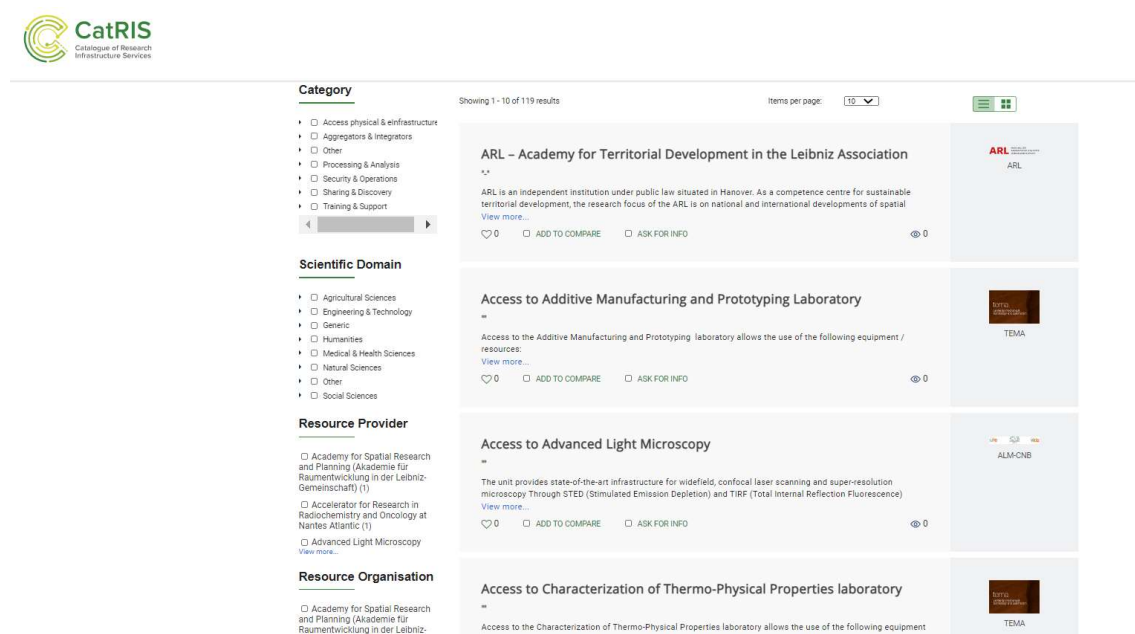

Figure 2.1: Example of search result in the CaTRIS portal of services, providing access to services of Europeans RIs of all research domains.

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[1] CatRIS is an H2020 project which offers an open portal to a harmonised and aggregated catalogue of services and resources provided by Research Infrastructures and Core Facilities across Europe. It is a bottom-up initiative, which is meant to be populated and run by RIs and CF service providers at European, national, regional and institutional levels. The search portal is also compatible with the EOSC catalogue.

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3. Database of services

Compatible with the technical specifications provided by CaTRIS, a first draft of a general template has been created, which will allow to develop the database of ACTRIS services required for the Catalogue. It will collect all the necessary information on the services.

The database consists of a list of details related to each service: some of the categories will become the filters allowing users to refine the search for the most suitable services in the Catalogue, according to their needs.

Service Description Template									
ID	Service name	Research area 1	Research area 2	Type of service 1	Type of service 2	Type of service 3	Description (max 500 words)	Media	Certifications (if relevant)
	Brief and descriptive name of service/resource	Choose between the options in the drop-down list	Choose between the options in the drop-down list	A named group of services that offer access to the same type of resource or capabilities.	A named group of services that offer access to the same type of resource or capabilities, within	A named group of services that offer access to the same type of resource or capabilities, within the	A high-level description in fairly non-technical terms of a) what the service/resource does, the functionality it provides and resources it enables to access, b) the benefit to a	Link to video, screenshots, images or slides showing details of the service	List of certifications obtained for the service (including the certification body)

Figure 2.2: Extract of the ACTRIS Catalogue of services template, providing all the details and relevant information for each ACTRIS service.

The list of filters includes the following entries:

- Research area: general list of research domains. This filter can be repeated, in order to better identify the user needs
- Ambient type: Ambient or controlled conditions
- Type of service: drop-down list of service categories, such as data services, research or technical services, training opportunities. This filter can be repeated, in order to better identify the user needs, adding choices such as, for instance, instrument calibration, instrument intercomparison, etc.
- Service description: high-level description in fairly non-technical terms of the service content, its functionality, and its interest and benefits
- Media: videos, images or any other outreach material providing information about the service
- Certifications (if any): the filter will list the possible certifications obtained for the given service
- Target users: research, academia, private sector, NGOs, public bodies, monitoring agencies
- Keywords: keywords associated to the service or resource help to simplify the search
- Access type: physical, remote or virtual access
- Topical Centres involved
- National Facilities involved
- Geographical location: precise geographical coordinates of each service location will be provided
- Geographical environment/climate type: rural, urban, maritime, costal, continental, high-altitude, Mediterranean, etc.
- Countr(ies): users will be able to locate the countr(ies) where the service is provided
- Cost model: free or paid access

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Other entries of the template will represent additional informative points for each service:

- ID: each service will have a ID number or code
- Service name: brief and descriptive name of the service or resource offered
- Modalities of access: brief description of the procedure to follow in order to access to the given resource
- Access mode: excellence-driven, technical need-driven or market-driven access
- Cost details (if any): precise details about the costs and fees of each service will be provided
- Terms of use: description of the rules, conditions and usage policy which users must abide by, to access the service

The database is currently being developed in the form of an Excel document, and it will be regularly fed and updated by NF and CF service providers.

4. Next steps

After the initial phase of definition of the Catalogue structure, the next action steps will focus on:

- Organizing a discussion workshop in January 2021 with ACTRIS services providers (NF and CF service providers for physical/remote access and providers of digital services for virtual access);
- Finalising the service description template, in particular the filters content and their comprehensiveness (by February 2021);
- Building the database by feeding information for each service (March 2021);
- Testing the service template (March-April 2021).

The testing phase will be carried out in parallel to the development of the technical layout in the ACTRIS web portal, which will allow an initial release of the first version of the Catalogue by end of April 2021.

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5. Annex I

Figure 5.1: Detailed overview of current version of the database.

Service Description Template

ID	Service name	Research area 1	Research area 2	Atmosphere type	Type of service 1	Type of service 2	Type of service 3	Description (max 500 words)	Media	Certifications (if relevant)	Target users	Keywords
	Brief and descriptive name of service/resource	Choose between the options in the drop-down list	Choose between the options in the drop-down list	Ambient or controlled conditions	A named group of services that offer access to the same type of resource or capabilities.	A named group of services that offer access to the same type of resource or capabilities, within	A named group of services that offer access to the same type of resource or capabilities, within the	A high-level description in fairly non-technical terms of a) what the service/resource does, the functionality it provides and resources it enables to access, b) the benefit to a	Link to video, screenshots, images or slides showing details of the service	List of certifications obtained for the service (including the certification body)	Choose between the options in the drop-down list	Keywords associated to the service/resource to simplify search by relevant keywords
		▾	▾		▾	▾	▾				▾	
		▾	▾		▾	▾	▾				▾	
		▾	▾		▾	▾	▾				▾	
		▾	▾		▾	▾	▾				▾	

Access type	Access mode	Modalities of access (max 500 words)	Topical Centres involved	National Facilities involved	Air mass /climate type	Geographical environment	Country(ies)	Cost model	Cost details (max 200 words)	Terms of use (max 200 words)
Choose between the options in the drop-down list	Choose between the options in the drop-down list	Brief description of the procedure to follow in order to access to the given resource	Choose between the options in the drop-down list	Choose between the options in the drop-down list	Indicate the **geographical coordinates** of the locations where the	Choose between the options in the drop-down list	Choose between the options in the drop-down list	Choose between the options in the drop-down list		Description of the rules, conditions and usage policy which one must agree to abide by in order to use the service
▾	▾		▾	▾		▾	▾	▾		
▾	▾		▾	▾		▾	▾	▾		
▾	▾		▾	▾		▾	▾	▾		