METADATA
THE DATA BEHIND THE DATA

**HOW?**
Can you describe how the data was collected?
For example, our scientists collect data on board the research ships using water sample collectors called CTD’s.

**WHO?**
Who collected and recorded the scientific data?
Data is collected by all kinds of scientists from different fields and organisations, this information is recorded with the data.

**WHY?**
Can you explain why the data was collected?
For example, long-term data collection can be for evidence surrounding climate change.

**DATE**
What was the precise date of the data collection?
Knowing which day, of which month and in which year the data were collected is very important to track changes in data.

**TIME**
What time precisely was the data collected?
We record the exact hour, minute and second using the standard 24 hour notation method of hh:mm:ss, for example 13:18:54.

**UNITS**
Which units will you use to measure the data?
Any data that does not fit the trend or looks unusual will be flagged as suspect and investigated to ensure quality.

**INSTRUMENTS**
Which instruments are used to measure data?
Scientists use instruments to collect and analyse data, for example we could use Calibrated Verification Thermometers.

**LONGITUDE**
What is the Longitude location of the data?
The distance east to west from the prime meridian in Greenwich, when used with Latitude a single point can be found.

**LATITUDE**
What is the Latitude location of the data?
We measure the distance north or south in degrees along a meridian from the centre of the Earth’s equator.

**METHOD**
Can you explain the exact method step by step?
In the laboratory we state and record the processes completed by the scientist during data collection and analysis.

**POLICY**
What is the policy on releasing the data?
Some data can be released immediately whilst other data is legally held by the scientist for 2 years as per the data policy.

**QUALITY CHECK**
How have you checked the quality of the data?
All data is analysed and checked, any that does not fit the trend or looks unusual should be flagged and investigated.

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