

Simple tools are needed to publish data in the Inspire infrastructure

The French Inspire infrastructure has been built by GIS specialists. The publication tools, based on softwares such as GeoNetwork or MapServer often appear too complex for non specialists. However, these tools should be used by non-GIS specialists, in particular the producers of environmental data.

Today, these producers are often accustomed to publish their data using open data methods for example by uploading zipped Shape files on their Web server associated with some essential metadata.

Compared to the principles of the Inspire infrastructure, such a publication presents several disadvantages. First of all, it is important that the data can be discovered and re-used simply by other machines without human intervention. In addition, Inspire requires that a view service be proposed. One can however wonder whether this view service is really essential. Ten or twenty years ago, when designing principles of Inspire, the geographical data were not much available on the Internet and a view service was an efficient way to understand the published data. Today, as the data are freely downloadable, one can imagine a more effective way to become acquainted with the data, for example using interactive tools for viewing it. Moreover, view services propose only one way to view data and when building a set of layers to solve a question, it is very frequently necessary to build a specific representation which is not published by the view service.

In this presentation, we will show that tools for publication as simple as those of the opendata can be proposed while preserving the main advantages of Inspire. It seems however necessary to give up certain principles that are no longer justified necessarily.