Relaunch of PAGES Databoard activities

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Submitting published data to data centers should be part of the ethics of paleoscience. Data centers have the mandate to collect, organize and provide data to users, but they face reluctance from some scientists to submit their published data. One of the major tasks of the PAGES Databoard, launched in March 2002 (see box), is to “establish a protocol to define the expected flow of data from scientists”. Four years after this launch, there is still a lack of engagement from individual scientists from the paleo-community in making their data available. The PAGES SSC recently voted for more prominent actions within the PAGES Databoard. In the new structure of PAGES, data management will become a cross-cutting theme. PAGES thereby aims to reinforce the submission of data from scientists working within PAGES Foci and beyond.

Figure: Maps of the data, divided by paleoarchives, available at the NOAA paleo-data center. The maps were created using free software available on the NOAA website.

The PAGES Databoard will meet in the middle of this year to discuss ways to increase the flow of data to data centers, and to promote a web portal that is user friendly and provides online access to all available data around the world using simple keywords. A list of data centers will soon be updated on the PAGES website. In the following months, PAGES members will be approached in various ways with requests to submit their data to data centers. We hope that by reminding scientists how important data availability is, the PAGES Databoard will strengthen the data-sharing ethic.

If you want to be part of the PAGES Databoard or you want more details on how and where to submit data, please contact Isabelle Larocque at isabelle_larocque@inrs-ete.uquebec.ca.