WMO/IOC/UNEP/ICSU
GLOBAL CLIMATE OBSERVING SYSTEM (GCOS)

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Doc. 6.1
(26.II.2010)

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2nd GRUAN Implementation-Coordination Meeting (ICM-2)
Payerne, Switzerland
2-4 March 2010

Item 6.1

GRUAN Blog User-Guide

(Submitted by GRUAN Lead Centre)

Summary and Purpose of Document

This document presents a user-guide for the GRUAN blog.

GRUAN Blog User-Guide

The GRUAN blog at gruan.wordpress.com invites the GRUAN community to share and discuss news and current developments regarding GRUAN and the establishment of reference data sets for climate, satellite validation and basic science. A blog has many features to support communication within the network, foremost the possibility to watch and to actively participate in ongoing discussions and to view and browse past discussions.

In contrast to e-mail, a blog has the advantage that discussions are visible to everybody, that everybody can participate, and that entries are categorized and tagged. All exchanges are archived and searchable, making it easier to refer to previous discussions thus making communication more efficient.

Register, participate and let us know your opinion.

Features of the GRUAN blog

Here are some basic features, which will help you getting familiar with the blog and navigating through the great options the blog offers:

- The simple menu bar at the top gives access to pages providing general and technical information about the blog.
  - Home: The introductory page of the GRUAN blog
  - Blog!: The latest posts
  - Registration: Information on how to register
  - About: Some information about GRUAN, the blog administration and editors
- The links on the right-hand side under *CATEGORIES, RECENT POSTS, RECENT COMMENTS* and the archive give access to all articles (here they are called posts) sorted by categories, tags, etc.
- You can subscribe to posts and comments using your favourite RSS client (). Use *"Entries RSS"* and *"Comments RSS"* under the META section on the sidebar to subscribe to the RSS feed.
- You can write and publish your own articles on the blog.
- Everybody can comment on every post or comment.
- You can publish not only a text but also documents and links.
- More extended features are available, which will not be described here.

Adding comments

To add comments to existing articles or discussion threads simply use the link at the end of each article. You can do so without registering (although registered users have some advantages). With your comment you need to supply your name and e-mail address (if you are logged in it will be added automatically). Leave a reply to a comment by using the link *"reply"* near the header.

Your comment will not appear immediately. It will be checked by the editor of this page before publication in order to keep SPAM out.

Registering

1. Use the link http://en.wordpress.com/signup/ to register at wordpress.com and fill in the required information. **It is important to check the option "Just a username, please" at the end of the page, otherwise you will create your own blog.**

2. Now write an email to the Lead Centre. We need your *registered email address* to add you as author on the GRUAN blog.

3. You will receive an acknowledgement of your registration as GRUAN blog author, as soon as you have been activated as author.

Adding posts

To add a new article, thus starting a new discussion thread, you first need to be registered at wordpress.com (see above).

1. Log in to the GRUAN blog using the *"log in"* link from the META box in the sidebar.

2. At the top of page after log-in you will find a menu bar: "*My account*", "*My dashboard*", etc. Use the item "*New post*" to add an article to the blog. This link will bring you to the editor pages offering a number of features that you might want to use.

"Brief": an RSS feed add-on for the Firefox web browser

A great advantage of blogs is the possibility to subscribe to it using RSS feeds (a current web standard). RSS feeds provide an up-to-date overview of blog activities without the need to constantly check for blog activities.

RSS feeds can be used in many ways, here we describe one option for the web browser Firefox. Within Firefox a browser add-on called *"Brief"* is a convenient tool to monitor the RSS feeds such as those coming from the GRUAN blog.

1. To install *"Brief"* in Firefox simply go to the Add-Ons page https://addons.mozilla.org/ and enter *"Brief"* in the field "*search for add-ons*". Once you have located this add-on simply click of "*Add to Firefox*". To switch to *"Brief"* use the new 🔊 button in your Firefox tool bar.

2. Create a new directory in the Bookmarks menu, e.g. *"Feeds"*

3. Open *"Brief"* using 🔊 button

4. Configure *"Brief"* using the button 🛠 and set the directory that you just created as the feed source.

5. Go to our blog and subscribe the RSS feeds. Click on the links Entries RSS and/or Comments RSS in the META section in the sidebar. Use "*Dynamical favourite*" as application and select the created directory. That's it.

With this add-on installed and configured you will get a highlighted icon in your browsers status bar as soon as new blog entries have been created.

Contact

Please contact us if you have feedback, ideas on how to improve the blog, problems, or just to send a nice message. You may also send us a text or document, which we can publish on the blog for you. Help us making this communication platform an important and useful tool in our network.

Send an email to the lead centre: gruan.lc@dwd.de

or directly to the blog administrator: michael.sommer@dwd.de