Key faces – Roy

Celebrating the 50th Anniversary of the British Oceanographic Data Centre
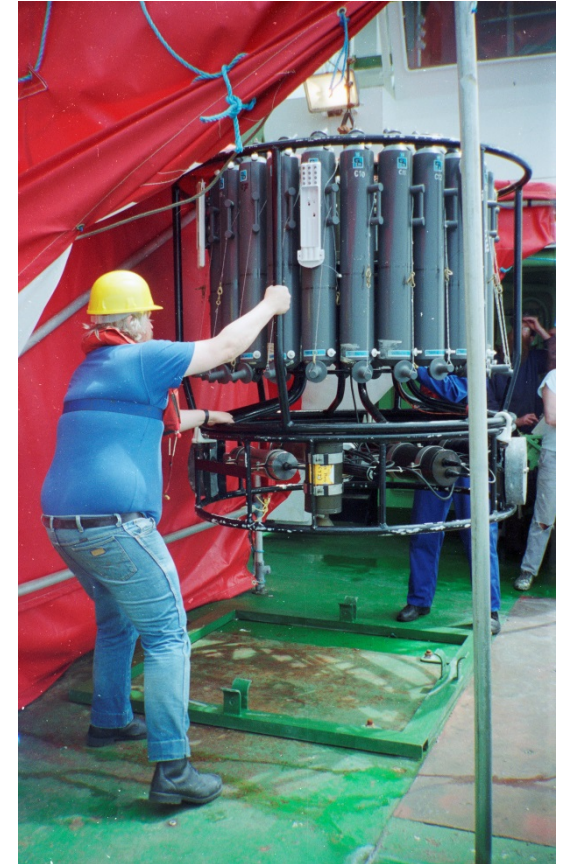
The story begins

- Began life in BODC (MIAS) in 1981 as a programmer
- Came with a PhD in geology (igneous petrology?)
- Initially worked for Steve
- Early successes:
  - BODC Transfer System
  - IOC GF-3 Proc software
  - Adoption of controlled vocabularies (code tables)

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The sea-going years

- First cruise in 1984 – very different from today
- Began in earnest with the NERC North Sea Project
- Gained a huge amount of knowledge about collecting oceanographic data
- Often met the research vessels as they docked to ensure we got a copy of the data
- The "data police"
- Master-minded the system to handle raw data, apply calibrations, etc.
- Data project data sets on CD-ROM
- Improved the visibility and reputation of BODC

BODC's technical director

- NERC Data Grid project
- Technical governance (NVS) for vocabulary management
- SeaDataNet – interoperability
- More use of standards (OGC, ISO, etc.)
- Ocean Data Interoperability Platform (ODIP)
- Well travelled!
- Use of persistent identifiers
- Linked data

Wednesday 8th May 2019, The Bluecoat, Liverpool

Some advice for conversations with Roy

- I wouldn't touch it with a disinfected barge pole

- It's as much use as a chocolate fireguard

Some of Roy's qualities

- Wide-ranging (huge!) knowledge
- Well-known and highly regarded
- International reputation
- In demand
- Meticulous
- Focused
- Persistent
- Helpful

- And still the first to answer e-mails…