

# Cross-searching of datasets by linking repository and vocabulary management in materials data platform

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# NIMS Materials Data Platform “DICE”



- Research data platform for materials science
- Developed and operated by National Institute for Materials Science (NIMS), Japan
- Consists of several research software and services
  - Materials databases
  - Research data sharing service
  - User authentication / authorization





# Selected in this presentation



- Materials Data Repository (MDR)
- MDR XAFS DB
- MatVoc / MatVoc Explorer





# NIMS Materials Data Repository (MDR)



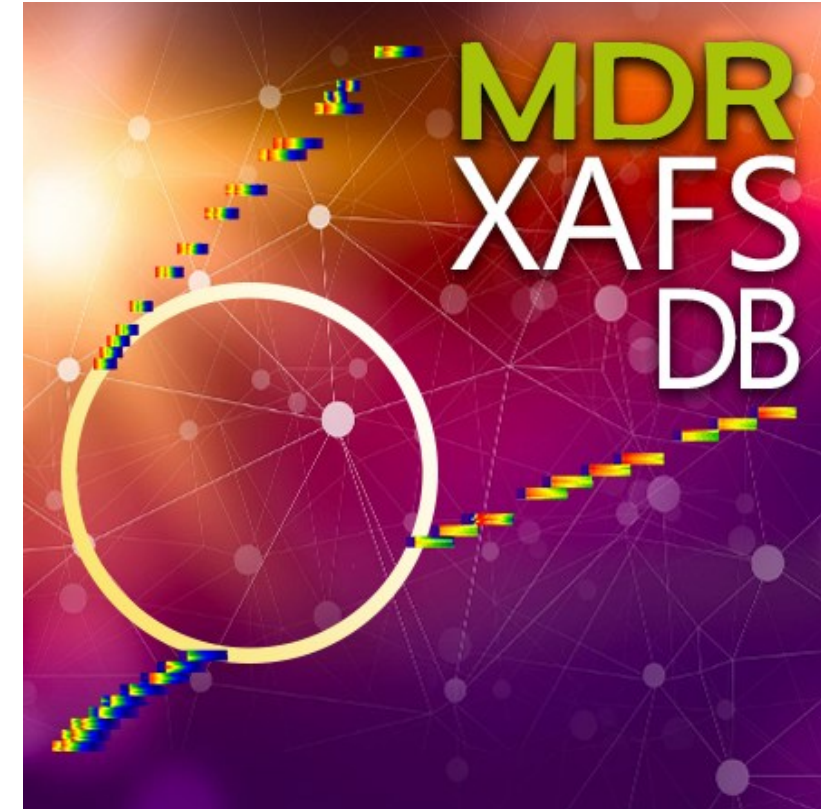
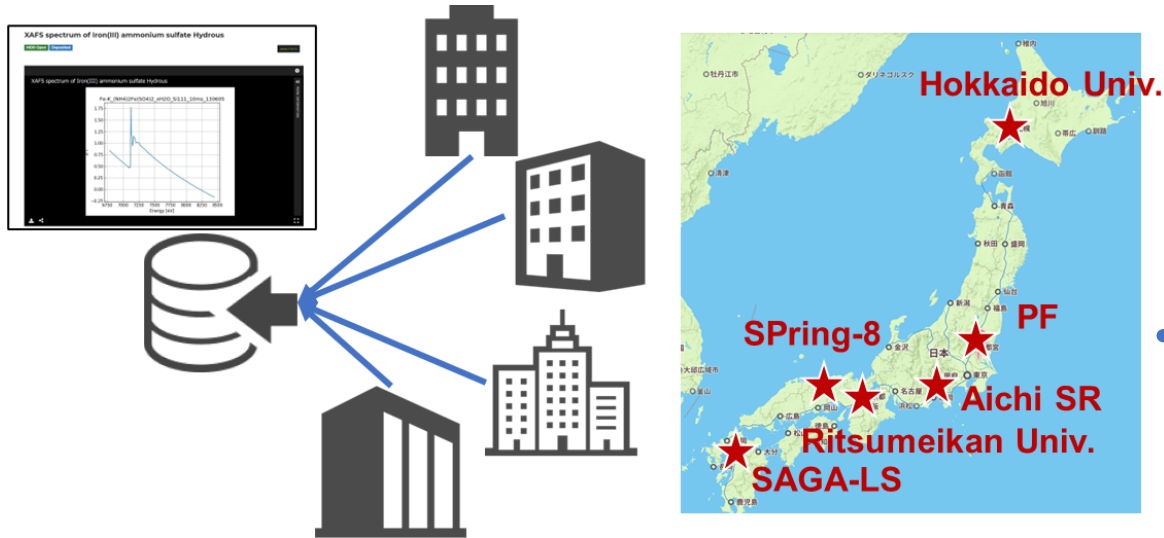
- Data repository in the DICE
  - <https://mdr.nims.go.jp>
- released in June 2020
- About 1,000 articles and 12,800 datasets as of October 2024
- provides facet search UI and REST API
- Built on Samvera Hyrax (OSS)
- Project leader: Kosuke Tanabe

The screenshot displays the NIMS Materials Data Repository (MDR) website. The header features the MDR logo and navigation links (Home, About, Help, Contact, Login). A search bar is prominently displayed. The main content area shows search results for 'TYPE OF WORK > DATASET'. A sidebar on the left allows filtering by various criteria: Type of work (46 results), Collection, Keyword, Language, Resource type, Data origin, Properties addressed, Date published, Date updated, Creator, Author, Contact person, and License. The search results list includes three entries:

- Data set used for the article Nonequilibrium magnetic response of anisotropic superparamagnetic nanoparticles and possible artifacts in magnetic particle imaging on PLOS ONE**  
Creator: MAMIYA, Hiroaki  
Date published: 08/01/2015  
Date Uploaded: 09/06/2020  
Date Modified: 15/06/2020  
Resource Type: Other
- Photographs of deformed areas after fiber fuse ignition**  
Description: Initial part of damage train left after a fiber fuse initiation.  
Creator: TODOROKI, Shin-ichi  
Date published: 17/06/2016  
Date Modified: 15/06/2020
- Fiber fuse propagation (1st trial, overexposed)**  
Creator: TODOROKI, Shin-ichi  
Date published: 22/01/2013  
Date Modified: 15/06/2020
- Fiber fuse propagation and voids left behind (overexposed)**  
Creator: TODOROKI, Shin-ichi  
Date published: 03/07/2014  
Date Modified: 15/06/2020



- Collection of X-ray absorption fine structure (XAFS) datasets
  - One of the most popular collections in MDR
- Includes approximately 2600 XAFS spectra datasets collected by six research institutions in Japan
- Project leader: Masashi Ishii



- <https://doi.org/10.48505/nims.1447>



Search MDR

Enter search terms

GO

Limit your search

Type of work

Collection

MDR XAFS DB 2,264

Keyword

Publisher

Resource type

Visibility

Rights Statement Sim

Data origin

Characterization methods

Material/Specimen

Filtering by: COLLECTION > MDR XAFS DB

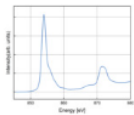
Start Over

« Previous | 1 - 10 of 2,264 | Next »

SORT BY RELEVANCE

10 PER PAGE

XAFS spectrum of Nickel(II) oxide



Description/Abstract:

This dataset consists of X-ray absorption fine structure (XAFS) spectra at Ni L-edge of Nickel(II) oxide measured at SAGA SR BL12, and is...

Keyword:

BL12, Ni L-edge, NiO, Nickel(II) oxide, Oxide, SAGA-LS, XAFS, and collection - MDR XAFS DB

Resource Type:

Dataset

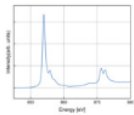
Data origin:

experiment

Date Uploaded:

09/06/2023

XAFS spectrum of Nickel(II) oxide



Description/Abstract:

This dataset consists of X-ray absorption fine structure (XAFS) spectra at Ni L-edge of Nickel(II) oxide measured at SAGA SR BL10, and is...

Keyword:

BL10, Ni L-edge, NiO, Nickel(II)

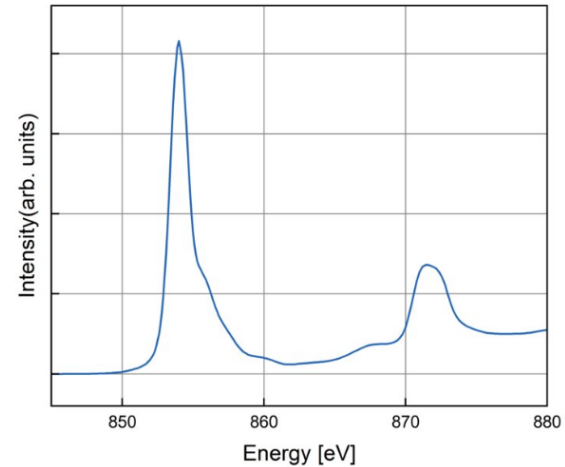


## XAFS spectrum of Nickel(II) oxide

MDR Open Deposited

ANALYTICS

XAFS spectrum of Nickel(II) oxide



### Specimen details

#### Specimen type

Title Nickel(II) oxide  
Description on carbon tape

#### Chemical composition

Description NiO  
Category <http://matvoc.nims.go.jp/entity/Q1631>

#### Structural feature

Description local structure  
Category <http://matvoc.nims.go.jp/entity/Q686>

### Preview: primary.tsv

Show 10 entries

Search:

#### key

@data\_info@data\_depositor@organization  
@data\_info@data\_depositor@affiliation  
@data\_info@data\_depositor@name  
@data\_info@data\_depositor@role  
@data\_info@contact\_name@organization  
@data\_info@contact\_name@affiliation  
@data\_info@contact\_name@name  
@data\_info@contact\_name@role  
@data\_info@access\_rights  
@data\_info@license

#### value

Kyushu Synchrotron Light Research Center  
Beamline Group  
Kyushu Synchrotron Light Research Center  
Beamline staff  
Kyushu Synchrotron Light Research Center  
Beamline Group  
Kyushu Synchrotron Light Research Center  
Beamline staff  
open  
CC-BY-NC-SA

Showing 1 to 10 of 47 entries

Previous 1 2 3 4 5 Next



# MatVoc / MatVoc Explorer



- MatVoc: <https://matvoc.nims.go.jp>
  - Vocabulary service for materials science
  - Built on Wikibase
  - Includes more than 2400 entities
  - Provides SPARQL endpoint
- MatVoc Explorer: <https://matvoc.nims.go.jp/explore/en/home>
  - Provides browse and search UI
  - Provides a link to MDR and other external databases associated with each vocabulary
- Project leader: Asahiko Matsuda







English | 日本語

[Home](#)

[About MatVoc](#) [?](#)

[Select Dictionaries](#) ▼

Search by label or QID

Loose ▼

[Search](#)

### [Open a specific dictionary](#)

Q21 : DICE Materials Data Vocabulary

Q713 : NIMS XAFS DB Project Materials Dictionary

Q1882 : ARIM Instrument Dictionary

Q1883 : DICE Instrument Dictionary

Q3518 : NIMS Thermophysical Property DB Project Dictionary

Q3604 : Magnetic materials vocabulary

Others (Items with no parent or child)

### National Institute for Materials Science

Research Network and Facility Services Division  
Materials Data Platform

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[DICE Portal](#) [↗](#)

[Privacy Policy](#) [↗](#)

[Contact](#) [↗](#)





NIMS XAFS DB Project Materials Dictionary > Chemicals > Inorganic materials > Oxide > Zinc oxide

## Q1800: Zinc oxide

Vocabulary ID <http://matvoc.nims.go.jp/entity/Q1800>

Language	Label	Description	Alias
English	Zinc oxide	BENTEN-registered chemicals, ZnO	ZnO, Zinc white, Zinc oxide (ZnO), Zinc oxide, philosopher's wool, flowers of zinc, Chinese white, calamine, 1314-13-2
Japanese	酸化亜鉛	BENTEN登録済み化学物質、ZnO	ZnO

### Semantic Relatives

#### ▶ Parents

### DICE Links

AtomWork [Zn+O](#) , MDR [Zinc+oxide](#)




## Semantic Relatives

### ▼ Parents

► [Q736: Oxide\\_ate](#)

Link to relative MatVoc entities

### DICE Links

**MDR** [Silver\(I\)+chromate](#) 

Link to MDR and other DICE services associated with the entity

### External Links

 [Silver\\_chromate](#)  ,  [Q416277](#) 

Link to Wikipedia and Wikidata



# Metadata schemas around MDR and MDR XAFS DB



Scientific metadata

- **XAFS Metadata**

- **DICE common messaging format**

- **MDR Schema**

- DataCite Metadata Schema

- JPCOAR Schema

Bibliographic metadata



- <https://github.com/xafs-db/xafs-schema>
- Metadata schema developed by the Japan XAFS Society
  - <https://www.jxafs.org/xafs-database>
- Includes domain-specific properties (e.g., instruments, measurement)

```
measurement:  
| detectors:
```

```
# 1. IC => 電流アンプ - V/F - カウンタ の場合  
- name: I1  
  arrangement: ...//Current Amp.//V/F Converter//Counter  
  processing_lines:  
    - conversion_factor: 1e-14  
      conversion_factor_unit: A  
    processors:  
      - processor: Current Amp.  
        type: Average  
        manufacturer: NF  
        model_number: CA5350  
        gain: 1e6  
        gain_unit: V/A  
        time_constant: 1e-3  
        time_constant_unit: s
```



# DICE common messaging format



- <https://doi.org/10.48505/nims.3240>
- Designed for entire datasets and research areas on the data platform DICE
- Supports many scientific entities and properties including instruments, specimens and experimental methods
- Consists of many deeply-nested properties
- *"We have defined a common metadata schema for research dataset distribution/exchange/storage, with features for not only system-to-system communication but also description of the datasets. The metadata were initially defined by a XML Schema, and has been converted into JSON Schema. The schema has a complex structure, which includes the dataset's bibliographic metadata as well as description of the dataset from the materials science viewpoint."*



# The structure of DICE common messaging format



<b>Mandatory</b>	<b>Common metadata</b> ID, Depositor, Specimen, Instrument, Data origin...				
	<b>Characterization metadata</b> Method, Environment...	<b>Specimen metadata</b> Material type, Structural features	<b>Property metadata</b> Characteristic properties	<b>Synthesis/Process metadata</b> Processed date, Temperature	<b>Calculation metadata</b> Computer Software
<b>Domain-specific</b>	<b>Characterization primary parameters</b>	<b>Specimen primary parameters</b>	<b>Property primary parameters</b>	<b>Synthesis/Process primary parameters</b>	<b>Calculation primary parameters</b>
Parameters (uncontrolled)					
Arbitrary data	Arbitrary data	Arbitrary data	Arbitrary data	Arbitrary data	Arbitrary data

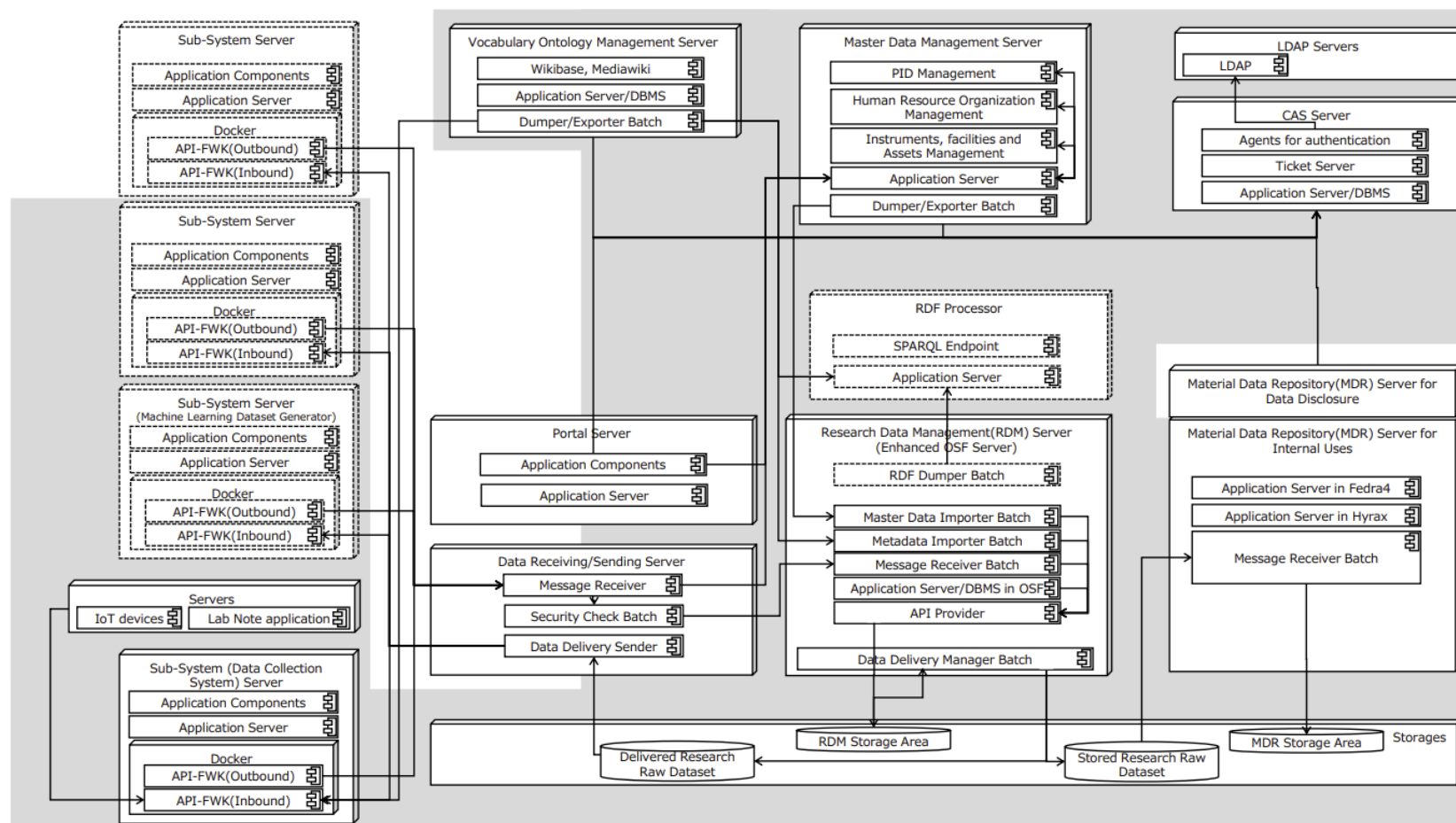
S. Kikuchi et al., IEICE Tech. Rep. vol. 119, no. 66, SC2019-2, pp. 7-17, 2019, in Japanese  
<https://ken.ieice.org/ken/paper/20190531k1nc/>  
(also in Ranganathan et al., 14th Int. Conf. Open Repositories, 2019. <https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.3553963> )





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- All research datasets and applications are expected to use the DICE common messaging format to describe and share its metadata



S. Kikuchi et al.,  
IEICE Tech. Rep. vol.  
119, no. 66,  
SC2019-2, pp. 7-17,  
2019, in Japanese  
<https://ken.ieice.org/ken/paper/20190531k1nc/>



# Difficulties in applying the huge metadata schema



- Some of the XAFS datasets were deposited to MDR using the schema, but it took much more efforts than expected
- It was extremely difficult for researchers and application engineers to understand its complex specification
  - Encountered implementation incompatibilities in handling the metadata and schema between the application software
  - Encountered many limitations and bugs in the software (customized OSS)
- After some operations, it was officially abandoned in 2022

## DICE common message format schema

A common metadata schema for distribution, exchange, and storage of research data among DICE systems.

With the discontinuation of the system that used this schema, this schema was also discontinued as of December 2022.

<https://dice.nims.go.jp/about.html>



# Technical limitations in MDR

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- MDR basically supports only keyword search
- MDR doesn't fully support nested metadata structure in the DICE common messaging format
  - e.g., cannot update a value in a nested property
- These came from technical limitations in MDR's software stack
- "...What should we do?"



# MDR Schema

---



- <https://github.com/nims-dpfc/mdr-schema>
- Simplified version of the DICE common messaging format
- Solely designed for depositing datasets to MDR
  - Mostly compatible with the existing metadata on MDR
- Eliminates deeply-nested hierarchy structure
- Expects to be written in YAML



# An example of metadata in MDR Schema



```
managing_organization:  
  | ror: https://ror.org/026v1ze26  
  | organization: National Institute for Materials Science  
  
instruments:  
  - name: BL14B2_XAFS  
  | description: SPring-8 Engineering Science Research Beamline XAFS setup  
  
experimental_methods:  
  # x-ray photoelectron spectroscopy  
  - category_vocabulary: https://matvoc.nims.go.jp/entity/Q31  
  
specimens:  
  - name: HAVAR  
  | description: Standard Sample  
  
chemical_compositions:  
  - description: W(CO)6  
  
structural_features:  
  - description: radial distribution function
```



# Validating MDR Schema YAML



- Using Yamale to create and validate the metadata schema
  - <https://github.com/23andMe/Yamale>

```
$ yamale metadata-sample.yaml
Validating /home/kosuke/mdr-schema/metadata-sample.yaml...
Validation failed!
Error validating data '/home/kosuke/mdr-schema/metadata-sample.yaml':
    titles.0.title: Required field missing
$ |
```



# Schema definition of MDR Schema



```
159 # 人物
160 person:
161     name: str()
162     orcid: str(required=False)
163     e_rad: str(required=False)
164     organization: str(required=False)
165     department: str(required=False)
166     ror: str(required=False)
167     role: enum('author', 'editor', 'translator', 'depositor',
168
```





# Schema definition of MDR Schema



```
228 # 試料
229 specimen:
230     name: str()
231     description: str(required=False)
232     identifier: str(required=False)
233     material_type_vocabulary: str(required=False)
234     material_type_description: str(required=False)
235
236 ---
237 # 試料の化学組成
238 chemical_composition:
239     specimen_identifier: str(required=False)
240     identifier: str(required=False)
241     category_vocabulary: str(required=False)
242     category_description: str(required=False)
243     description: str(required=False)
```



# Why YAML?

---

- human-readable and (almost) writable
  - Easy to create and distribute a metadata template file since it supports single-line and inline comments
  - It is painful for human to read and write a spreadsheet that has a lot of columns
- It can be converted to JSON or other formats easily



# An example of MDR metadata migration



- “instruments”->“function”  
->“category” is moved to  
“function\_category”
- “instruments”  
->“managing\_organization”  
is moved to  
“instrument\_management\_ organization”
- Assigns local identifier  
“instrument\_00001” to the  
instrument and refers it  
from the  
“instrument\_management\_ organization”

instruments:

```
- name: BL14B2_XAFS
  description: SPring-8
  function:
    - category: spectroscopy
      identifier: https://matvoc.nims.go.jp/entry/Q30
  managing_organization:
    organization: JASRI
```

DICE common  
messaging format  
(converted to YAML)

instruments:

```
- identifier: instrument_00001
  name: BL14B2_XAFS
  description: SPring-8
  function_category:
    - https://matvoc.nims.go.jp/entry/Q30
  instrument_managing_organization:
    instrument_identifier: instrument_00001
    organization: JASRI
```

MDR Schema



# Comparison of metadata schemas around MDR XAFS DB



	XAFS Metadata	DICE common messaging format	MDR Schema
Support scientific metadata properties?	Yes	Yes	Partially yes
Research domain specific?	Yes	No	No
Format	YAML, JSON or TSV	XML, JSON	YAML, JSON
Metadata structure	deeply-nested	deeply-nested	single-nested
Human-friendly?	?	No	Yes(?)



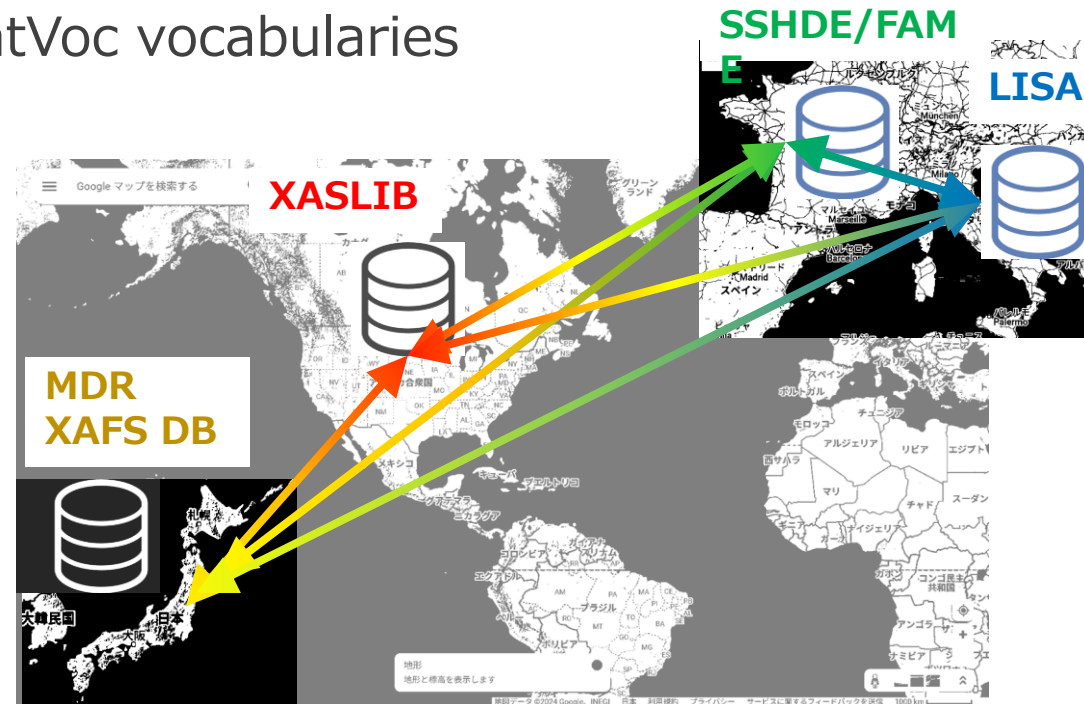
# **advanced case study: International XAFS DB Portal**



# International XAFS DB Portal



- Cross-search for MDR XAFS DB and other three XAFS databases in the world
  - SSHADE/FAME (France)
  - XASLIB (US)
  - LISA XAS Database (Italy)
- All datasets are linked with MatVoc vocabularies
- <https://ixdb.jxafs.org/>





# International XAFS DB Portal

## Absorption edge search

Absorption element :

Edge :

## Material name search

Material name containing:   
(Chemical formula, customary name, etc.)

\*\*\*\*\*



# International XAFS DB Portal

## Material name containing: 銅

[Q1426](#) : [Copper](#)  
[Q1412](#) : [Copper acetate](#)  
[Q2319](#) : [Copper bis\(2,2,6,6-tetramethyl-3,5-heptanedionate\)](#)  
[Q1393](#) : [Copper chromite](#)  
[Q1409](#) : [Copper fluoride](#)  
[Q1428](#) : [Copper molybdate](#)  
[Q889](#) : [Copper nickel](#)  
[Q1413](#) : [Copper nitrate, hydrous](#)  
[Q1417](#) : [Copper nitride](#)  
[Q1410](#) : [Copper phthalocyanine](#)  
[Q1433](#) : [Copper tungstate](#)  
[Q1851](#) : [Copper\(I\) chloride, anhydrous](#)





# International XAFS DB Portal

## Links for Copper(I) sulfide

<https://xaslib.xrayabsorption.org/spectrum/86/> (IXAS)  
<https://mdr.nims.go.jp/concern/datasets/9p290d467> (KEK)  
<https://mdr.nims.go.jp/concern/datasets/bk128f46k> (KEK)  
<https://mdr.nims.go.jp/concern/datasets/sx61dq71s> (KEK)  
<https://mdr.nims.go.jp/concern/datasets/9306t179v> (SPring-8)  
<https://mdr.nims.go.jp/concern/datasets/pv63g2653> (SPring-8)

## Related crystal structures

[F m -3 m](#)  
[P 1 21/c 1](#)  
[P 43 21 2](#)  
[P 63/m m c](#)

Link to MDR XAFS DB and other XAFS databases associated with the entity



## Related COD ID List for Copper(I) sulfide F m -3 m

[return](#)

[Return To Top](#)

[1530508](#)

[1532316](#)

Link to  
Crystallography Open  
Database

### Crystallography Open Database

#### COD Home

[Home](#)  
[What's new?](#)

#### Accessing COD Data

[Browse](#)  
[Search](#)  
[Search by structural formula](#)

#### Add Your Data

[Deposit your data](#)  
[Manage depositions](#)  
[Manage/release prepublications](#)

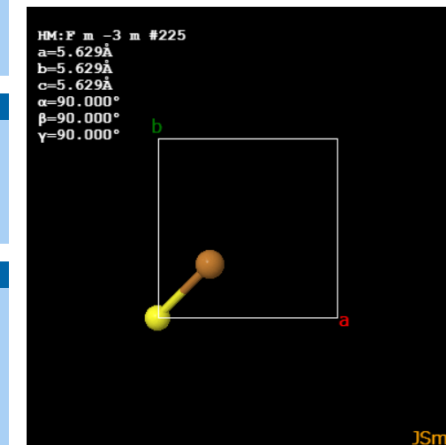
#### Documentation

[COD Wiki](#)  
[Obtaining COD](#)  
[License](#)  
[Privacy and GDPR](#)  
[Querying COD](#)  
[Citing COD](#)  
[COD Mirrors](#)  
[Advice to donators](#)  
[Useful links](#)

### Information card for entry 1530508

[1530507](#) << [1530508](#) >> [1530509](#)

#### Preview

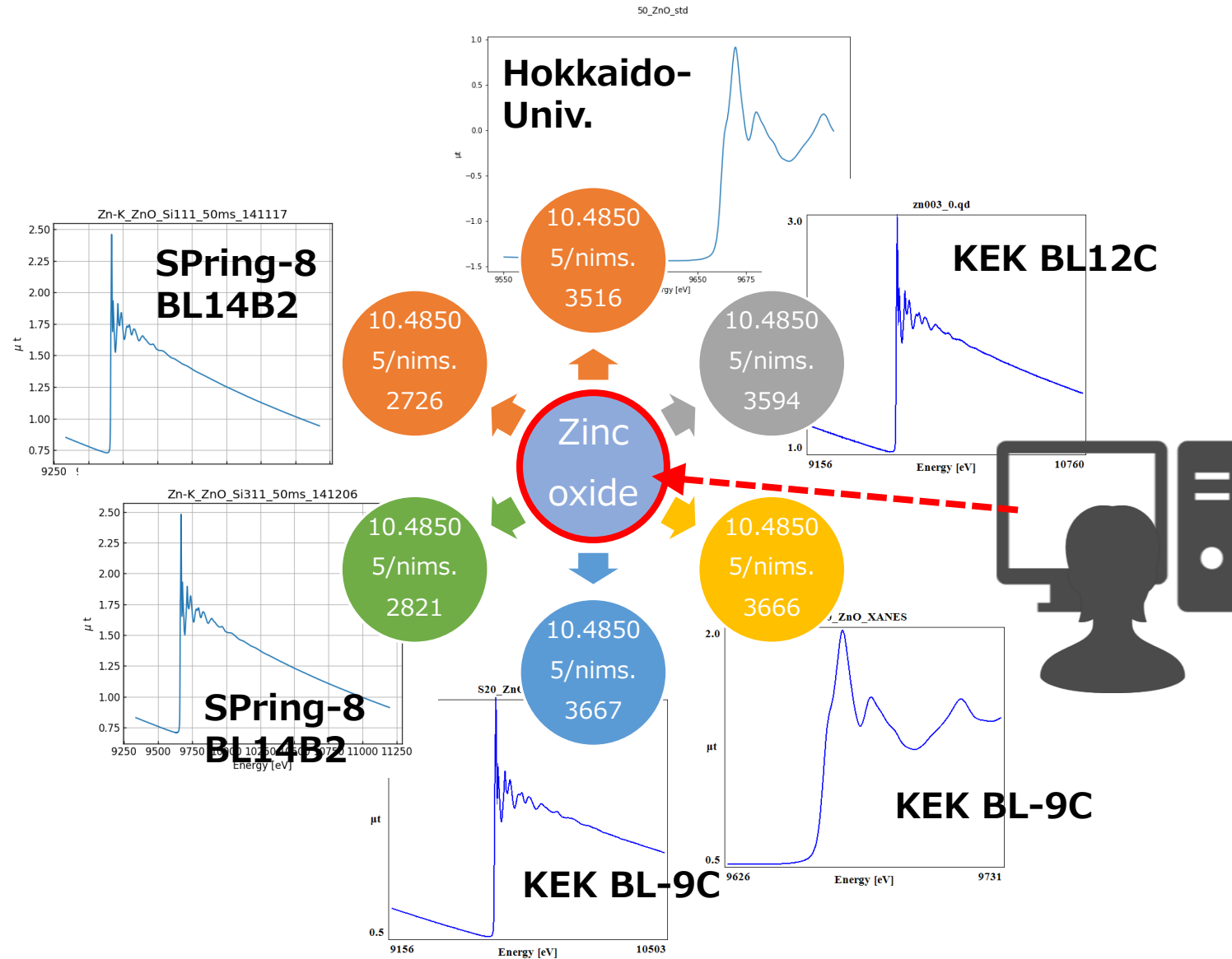


Coordinates [1530508.cif](#)

<https://www.crystallography.net/cod/1530508.html>

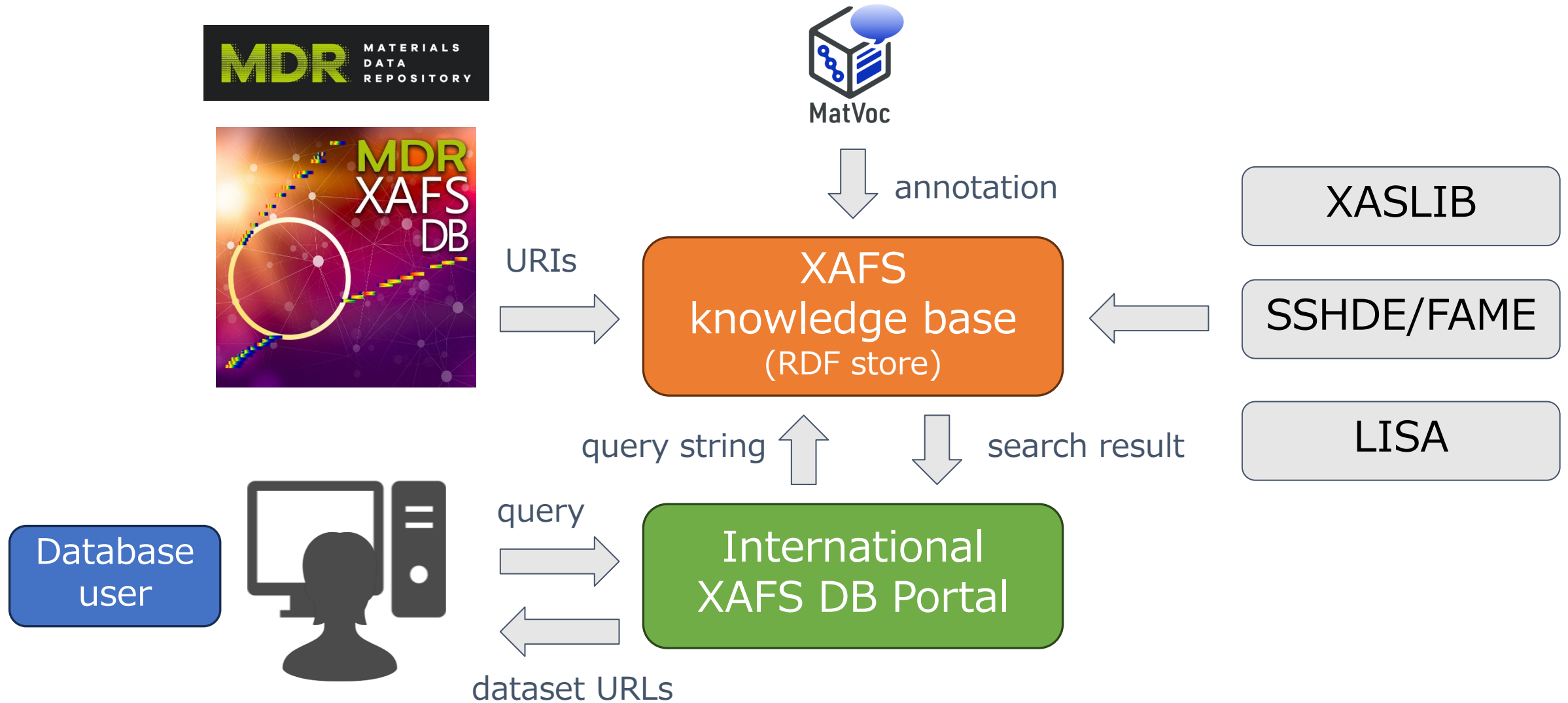


# Linking metadata using MatVoc





# XAFS knowledge base





# Lessons learned

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- One big metadata schema does not fit all actually
- Everyone says, “Metadata is important”, but the meaning depends on the context
  - Researchers, engineers, and librarians have different viewpoints on metadata and its use
  - Especially we should consider researcher-friendly metadata creation environment
- Browse and search features are essential in research data management even if they are basic implementations and have basic metadata
  - It is difficult for even researchers and data curators to grasp the whole picture of their datasets
- Identifier (for datasets and vocabularies) is the key to tame diverse research data and their domain-specific metadata



# Further plans

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- Support querying MatVoc URIs in MDR REST API
- Add MatVoc URIs to datasets previously deposited on MDR
- Add MatVoc URIs to datasets on other DICE services
- Expand MatVoc vocabulary for a focused domain of materials and enhance findability of those data
- Linking materials to their crystallographic information through MatVoc
- **Cross-linking more XAFS databases around the world**



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