PALEO-SEAL: an easily deployable tool for the communication and sharing of Holocene sea-level data.

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ABSTRACT

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1. Introduction

The standardization of data on Holocene sea-level proxies has been a recurrent theme in coastal Quaternary Science research. While it was theorized and implemented at least since the early 80s (Shennan, 1982; Shennan et al., 1983; Van De Plassche, 1986), only recent works have established a comprehensive framework for the standardization of sea-level data and applied it globally (Khan et al., 2019). The sea-level data standardization efforts were elicited by different IGCP (International Geological Correlation Programme, later renamed as the International Geoscience Programme) projects and the INQUA-PAGES project PALSEA (Palaeo-Constraints on Sea-Level Rise).

A paper stemming from the PALSEA community (Düsterhus et al., 2016) highlights that the key elements to be considered when compiling a sea-level database are: Accessibility, Transparency, Trust, Availability, Continuity, Completeness, and Communication of content. This set of properties was abbreviated into the ATTAC[3] acronym. "Communication of content", according to Düsterhus et al. (2016), means that interfaces for visualization, and standardized protocols for data extraction need to be implemented in order to allow users from different disciplines to easily visualize and export data of interest.

In this short note, we present one tool designed to meet such criteria, called PALEO-SEAL. The tool makes use of a mySQL version of the sea-level data template of Khan et al. (2019). Installed on any web server supporting PHP and with few simple steps to set it up, it can be used to create a webpage to explore, plot and download Holocene sea-level data.

2. PALEO-SEAL description

The core of PALEO-SEAL are two main data visualization options. One is a map, where points are clustered and de-clustered at different zoom levels. Within the map, data can be filtered either by a drop-down menu or directly on the map. The drop-down menu allows to select between: data type (type of sea-level indicator), Region, Subregion, Reference, Publication year, or Dating method. On the map, data can be filtered geographically with a "draw rectangle" tool (Figure 1). Once a subset of data is selected, it is possible to visualize it in a data explorer interface (Figure 2). The data explorer interface is composed by an age/elevation graph (with adjustable X and Y axes) and a simplified table that previews the sea-level data plotted.

The data explorer interface has the same data filtering options as the map, and the two interfaces are linked: what is selected on the map will appear in the data interface and vice-versa. From both map and data explorer, it is possible to create a list of dataponits to be exported. Once filtering is over, an "Export" button allows to download the selected data as a *.csv file, compliant with the Khan et al. (2019) template.

3. Installing PALEO-SEAL

Pre-requisites for PALEO-SEAL are a server with mySQL (where data is stored) and PhP 7 installed. Then, the following steps must be followed.

1. **Prepare and deploy the mySQL database**. The data that will be shown in PALEO-SEAL need to be hosted on a remote server, where you will have to create a mySQL database. The only privileges needed by the interface are "SELECT" and "SHOW VIEW". As the user name will be visible to anyone with access to the code, is is strongly suggested to create a user with only these minimal privileges dedicated to the PALEO-SEAL interface. Once the database is created, run the SQL command "create table", included in the mysql folder. This will create 79 fields, reproducing the HOLSEA data table in the mySQL database. Fields headers in the database are coded with alphanumeric codes, corresponding to the fields in the HOLSEA database. To obtain descriptions of each field, you can refer to the "*data_headers_lookup*" file in the "*data/lookups*" folder. Then, data can be imported into the mySQL

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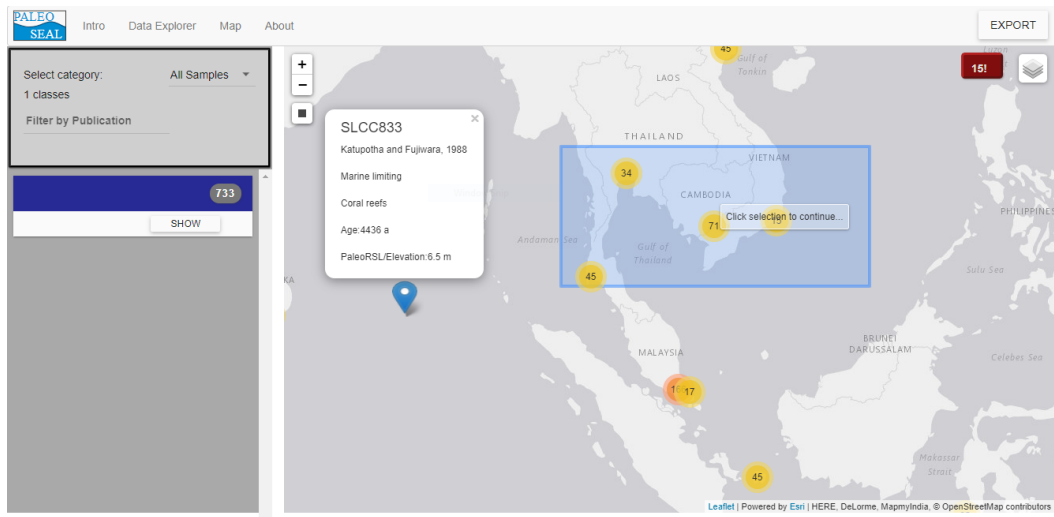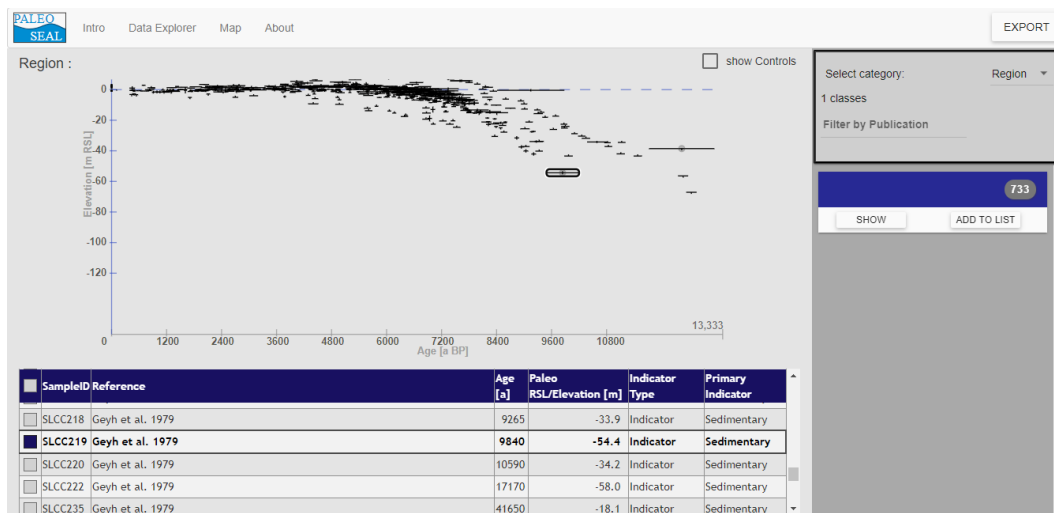
ORCID(s):

Figure 1:

Figure 2:

database using common import functions from csv or excel.

2. **Modify the connection string**. Navigate to "scripts /data /connect.php" and open the file with a text editor. Edit line 3 to connect to your database as follows inserting the server name, username, password, database and port to connect to your database.

3. **Deploy your application**. Deploy the application by copying the entire PALEO-SEAL folder on a web server that supports PHP 7.0. The directory where PALEO-SEAL is copied needs to be publicly accessible.

4. **Change style (optional)**. It is possible to change the appearance of PALEO-SEAL using HTML and CSS. For example, the logo can be changed by overwriting the "logo.svg" file in the folder "/ common/ img". Webpages composing the application are contained in the folder "/pages". Text and content can be edited from here. To change the page style, modify the "/ common/ css/ appearance.css" file and, if necessary, the "index.php" file.

4. Technical details

`I'll try to make it more clear with a small flowchart or sth`

The initial PHP request returns a shortened form (23 properties) of every entry from the MySQL DB and converts it into a basic JSON array. Additional properties with their initial values (export: false, plot: false, map: false) are added to each sample for data handling (User interaction). Further conversions in "scripts/data/getData.js" include:

- find records where C_02 : 'Modern' and replace with float 0;

- Load RSL ($D7\_01$) for SL indicators and sample elevation ($D3\_11$) for marine & terrestrial limiting (and the corresponding errors).
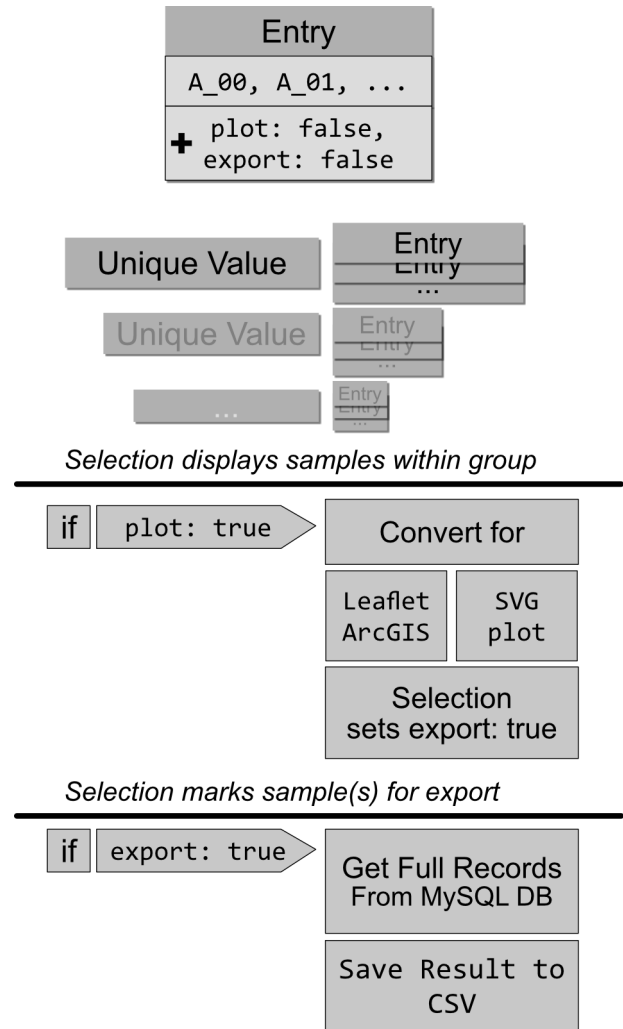
Figure 3:

Refer to the getData.js for more information.

On group (default: region Code, *B*_01) the selected category (column, property) is scanned for unique values. An object of these values is generated where each entry is populated with the corresponding samples. This stacked array is used to generate the elements displayed on the sidenav. Including a counter showing the length of samples array within each group.

In the sidenav when selecting "display" the samples within this group are processed to be handed over to Plot and Map. The plot script was developed as part of this project, whereas for the clustered map markers an ArcGis leaflet framework was used. Prerequisite for ArcGis: correct formatting and removal of invalid coordinate entries (Invalid are stored in an array, but not integrated into the frontend yet). Selection on the map is achieved by leaflet's .contains method. The plot component uses the errors provided for each sample to calculate the extent of the marker in each dimension. Three series of markers are generated depending on the marker type (indicator, marine & terrestrial limiting). Angular re-peat directive allows to iterate over the samples within the desired group and render the marker for each entry.

Marking an entry for export, toggles the export property of the sample. The export Dialog filters the whole dataset for entries with property export: true and hands it to the export specific plot and map function for reviewing the selection. GetCSV gathers the UIDs and where export: true, requests the full records in the MySQL DB for each UID and saves it into a csvfile.

5. Potential use of PALEO-SEAL

In general, PALEO-SEAL is a simple tool that can be used to illustrate, filter and make available for export Holocene sea-level data related to a paper, or a research project.

CRediT authorship contribution statement

Jan Drechsel: Development of the tool, work on example dataset. **Nicole Khan:** Work on database template and contribution to paper writing. **Alessio Rovere:** Writing of the paper, supervision on tool development.

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