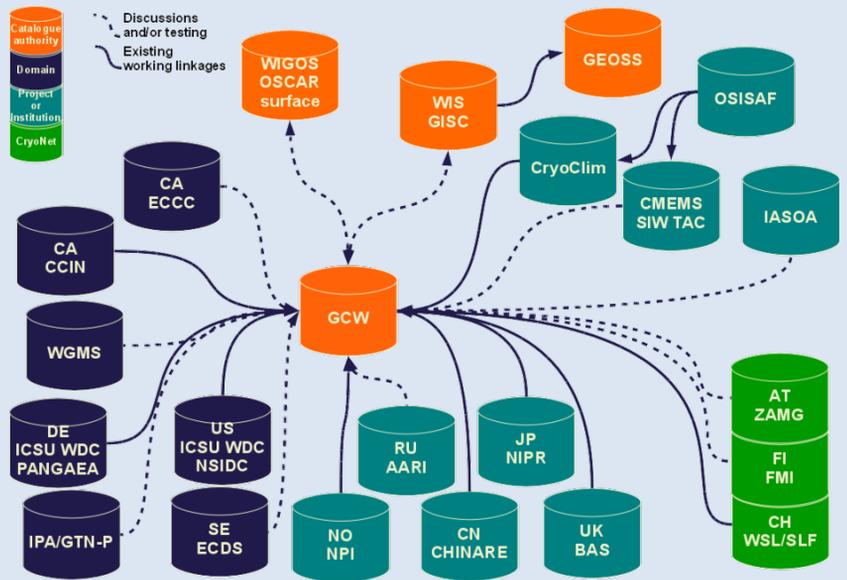
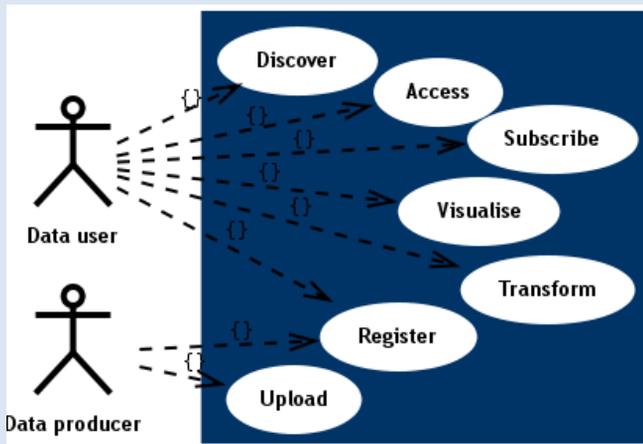




The Global Cryosphere Watch (GCW) aims to establish a sustained, global, robust, end-to-end cryosphere observing and monitoring system. A major goal of GCW is improved exchange of, access to, and utilization of observations and products from WMO and other observing systems. Establishing interoperability between data management systems supporting cryospheric data directly addresses GCW objectives.



Rather than trying to establish “the one and only portal”, a solution linking existing catalogues and portals is more sustainable. Data resides in its original location while metadata are exchanged. Interoperability between data centres is essential.



**Functional Requirements:** Users of cryospheric data, products and information should be able to easily find what they need. The portal requires both human and machine interfaces. While discovery and access to data is the primary function of any portal, users request more advanced functionality, like visualisation, transformation, reformatting, and reprojection of datasets as part of the data mining activity.

The GCW web portal will make GCW data and information available to WMO Members, their partners, and users while providing the ability to exchange data and information among a distributed network of providers of data and products. The portal, as a part of the WMO Information System (WIS), will allow for rapid exchange of data, metadata, information, and analyses.

