



Newsletter No. 1 – November 2014: New web portal available

The new HADES web portal has been available at www.hades.unibe.ch since June of this year. All content of the printed version – and then some – is available for digital retrieval around the clock. The attractive new website, which offers easy and centralized access to a plethora of information and data, is already widely used: over 4200 visitors have held approximately 5500 sessions since July 2014.

Of course, not all products can be made available at the same time. The new series of excursions, teaching material and the Atlas platform are still in development. In each newsletter, we will present one of the HADES products, beginning in this edition with a brief look at the teaching material “Understanding Water” by Matthias Probst.

We thank everyone who has supported us with tips and suggestions for improving the new website and look forward to your continued involvement!

Registration Competition

Since the opening of the HADES website, it has been possible to register for this newsletter. In August, everyone who had already registered for the HADES newsletter was entered in a raffle for three prizes. The following winners will each receive a set of our hydrological excursion guides and a contribution toward the travel and accommodations costs in the selected excursion area.

- Norbert Kräuchi, Division of Landscape and Water, Canton of Aargau
- Angela von Känel, Biologist, Canton of Bern



Norbert Kräuchi at the award ceremony in the Aargau Alluvial Protection Site (Photo: G. Rüttimann)

Congratulations to the winners! We appreciate your interest and hope that you enjoy some impressive walks and beautiful experiences by the water.

Registration still possible

It is still possible to register for the HADES newsletter! We rely on word-of-mouth and your help to reach people, so please help us spread the word. Everyone who registers or re-registers for the newsletter between August and the end of 2014 will have the chance to win one of three book vouchers and a copy of the learning material “Understanding Water”. The drawing will take place in spring 2015.

The HADES website is a website of “patrimonial importance”

The Swiss National Library has identified the HADES website (www.hades.unibe.ch) as a website of “patrimonial importance”. Websites with this designation are “freely accessible websites of patrimonial importance with a strong connection to Switzerland”. We are very excited to be included in the collection and will strive to ensure that the HADES website remains an attractive and up-to-date showcase of Swiss hydrology.

Products in development



“Tracks along the Water World”: New excursion guides in French-speaking Valais

A new set of excursion guides in the series “Tracks along the Water World” is currently being developed. The excursions will focus on three sites in the high mountains of French-speaking Valais. The authors of the new guides are two experienced hydrologists, Prof. Emmanuel Reynard (Institute of Geography and Sustainability at the University of Lausanne) and Dr. Bruno Schädler (Institute of Geography at the University of Bern). The three attractive excursions will be published in 2015.



Underway in the excursion area: From the Plaine Morte glacier to Lac de Tseuzier (Photos: B. Schädler 2014)



Teaching material “Understanding Water”

Interview with Matthias Probst, author of “Understanding Water”



HADES: Matthias, can you briefly describe the product?

Probst: The learning material “Understanding Water” attempts to bring people closer to hydrological issues so that they can apply their knowledge in their daily lives. The materials connect familiar hydrological concepts with new knowledge. In this respect, complementary media such as photos, videos and audio files in the e-book play an important role in linking timely issues with people’s everyday lives, demonstrating that the topics discussed occur in reality, not just in textbooks.

HADES: In concrete terms, what can the reader expect?

Probst: Specifically, a three-part factsheet (available in print and as an e-book) that motivates learners to develop and verify discrete concepts. On the first page, which I call the “Focus page”, the reader is confronted with a controversial situation designed to arouse interest in the subject. This may, for example, be an unexpected relationship or an apparent contradiction. The various questions and considerations can be checked when the reader opens the folder to the “knowledge” section. Here, the reader can find information about the scientific evidence relevant to the issue. Finally, the “transfer” section on the last page gives the reader the opportunity to apply this knowledge to a different situation.



Matthias Probst teaches didactics in geography at the University of Teacher Education in Bern and is the author of other geographical learning materials

(Photo: T. Reist)

HADES: HADES already has teaching materials. Why do we need a new edition?

Probst: When the first HADES worksheets were published 14 years ago, today’s students were just being born. For them, the data and case studies in these worksheets are from a different era and hardly have any relation to their lives today. This is problem for learning material in general: once the examples are out of



date, the exercises lose their credibility and relevance. We wanted to take advantage of today's technological possibilities to ensure that the new learning materials convey the latest hydrological knowledge in a timely and accessible manner.

HADES: Does "Understanding Water" have any relevance outside of the school? In other words, are the lectures also of interest to non-teachers?

Probst: Definitely! The didactic structure "focus", "knowledge" and "transfer" is not at all bothersome. On the contrary, we are familiar with this structure from many newspaper articles. The subject matter is timely and socially relevant, and the "knowledge" sections can be used independently as factsheets. I have already received positive feedback from non-academic users, but I am curious to see just how widely used the factsheets will be.

HADES: The teaching material is still not publicly available. When will "Understanding Water" be published and where can one access it?

Probst: The first module, "Hydrological Extreme Events", has four factsheets: "Floods", "Dealing with floods", "Heavy precipitation" and "Low water". In spring 2015, this module will be published in German by Hep (www.hep-verlag.ch) and in French by Éditions Loisirs et Pédagogie (www.editionslep.ch). By publishing these factsheets through these large educational publishing firms, we ensure that the teaching material will reach the classroom. Nevertheless, the factsheets clearly remain a product of HADES and will enrich the range of products HADES has to offer. A digital version of the factsheets and a complementary e-book will be available on the HADES website, where they can be downloaded free of charge.



Atlas-Plattform

A new, interactive digital hydrological atlas will be available from 2015/2016. Based on the "AtlasPlattformSchweiz", which is currently being developed at the Institute of Cartography and Geoinformation at ETH Zurich, the new platform will allow users to visualise thematic maps (in 2D and 3D) and to directly analyse data in various ways.

Maps of measuring stations for precipitation and runoff are currently being developed. In this context, we are interested in information about privately operated stations that have not been included in HADES. If you have any information about such stations, please contact Jan Schwanbeck <jschwab@ggiub.unibe.ch>.

HADES Project Management, November 2014

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