

Dear authors of the WoSIS 2023 snapshot,

the reviewers were happy with the changes and explanations in the manuscript, thank you for taking up their comments thoroughly! However, they did not comment on the data product itself. Some testing (not all files, but various) revealed aspects that should be improved so that it is in fact easy to use by other researchers.

General comment: The snapshot data itself on the repository should stand on its own and be easy to use, even without the ESSD paper. This requires at least a “technical” description of the files, headers and units, as well as some rough methodology, whereas more information in greater detail is then part of the ESSD paper. Ideally, this information would be gathered in a readme file outside the zip where the data is. (Also, at the moment, in the readme you can find the information on where to get the zip. This does not make sense if the readme is inside.) Some of this information you provide in the appendix, but it should be put alongside the data (or in both places) and it is not yet comprehensive. The following comments should clarify some of the issues with the data description.

Specific comments:

- 1) Opening .tsv files fails because of differences in columns in the header compared to the main data body (tested by different people and different programming languages, using ' ', '\s', '\s+', '\t' as separator). Might this be due to blank spaces in the string entries? Please check and improve.
- 2) The data needs a clear description of
 - a. the files and what they contain (e.g. a list and short description).
 - b. the individual columns within each files
 - c. the units of the columns (e.g. the upper_depth information is supposedly in cm?)
 - d. the category values that can occur in the columns and what they mean (e.g. “f” in the organic_surface)

At the moment, these aspects are partly present in Appendix B in the paper, but not complete, and not described sufficiently so that one can understand and use the data without searching further in the paper or on the website (and sometimes even then without success). Please put this information in the readme. An example how this could look like is [a template](#) by GFZ Data Services.

- 3) Additional: the wosis_202312.gpkg could benefit from classes or mean values instead of or additional to text for the positional uncertainty so that it can be filtered and sorted.

Please address these issues so that the snapshot can be used easily and reach its potential.

Best regards,

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