



Drilling into the Idea of a Virtual Core Lab *From here to there(s), from ships to shore(s)*



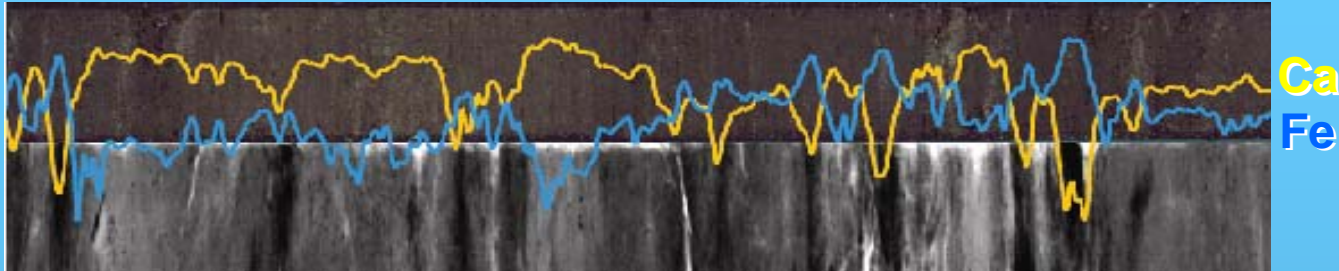
MSCL @ NUIM



ITRAX @ UCD

Presenting: Dr. Stephen McCarron, Dept. of Geography, NUI Maynooth

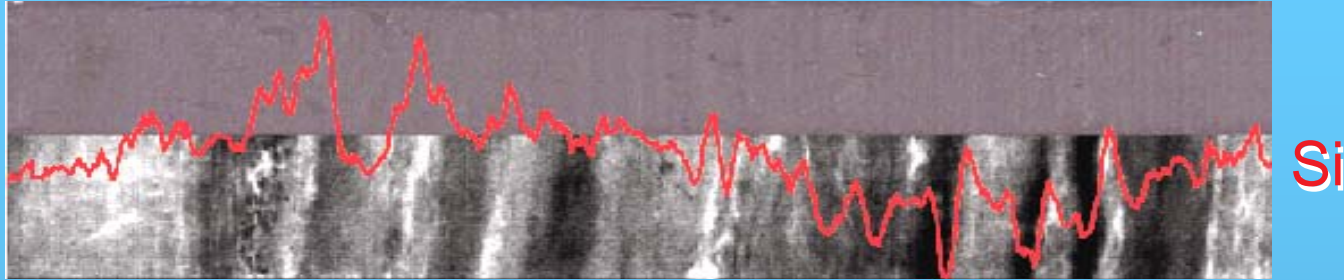
Why a Virtual Core Lab ?



A Virtual Core Lab would comprise a defined ‘umbrella partnership’/’research centre’ between multiple complimentary research units in several Irish institutions.

- Currently comprised of desire, and an inventory of equipment in 4 Greater Dublin area Universities (DCU, NUIM, TCD, UCD) and the GSI.
 - Currently working informally together on a set of INFOMAR projects
- **Core Lab Functions:**
- Complementary research facilities dedicated to the collection of high quality palaeoenvironmental information from sedimentary archives.
- **Core Lab Capacity :**
- To offer a wide range of physical properties, geo-chemical and geo-biological analyses on cored sedimentary samples, in Ireland, through one access portal.

Virtual Core Lab benefits



- **Easier Access**
 - Accessibility to research infrastructure through a single portal (transferable)
- **Data dissemination**
 - Centrally hosted, organised, standardised and served data to E-science, international (e.g. ECORD, IODP) initiatives, 3rd/4th level education (e.g. GREPs)
- **Attracting Research Support**
 - Leveraging of funding (intra-institutional; national; international)
 - Funding exposure (extending the reach of ears and tongues)
 - Funding call pre-preparation, efficiency and desirable structure
- **New functionality**
 - A new strand to existing multidisciplinary programmes (e.g. Integrating into NUIM role as core partner in SMARTBAY) and future collaborations (e.g. Safe City)
 - Service enhanced research *expectation*
- **Critical research mass**
 - Sum worth more than parts
 - Networking and Ideas exchange (e.g. lines of inter-institutional contact, workshops, publications etc)
 - Admin. and research support from additional personnel