

Recommended interactive apps and websites

There is a very wide range of software tools and apps available for searching and analysing EO data. Often these are highly specialised for processing and presenting specific types of data, (so called ‘data products’). For this course, however, we have provided guided exercises using a small selection of some of the more intuitive and free web-based tools available. We have specifically focussed on tools that do not require software downloads, and should work in most web browsers. However, due to the wide range of platforms, underlying software and compatibility factors, we cannot list every option for each operating system and device here.

Below is a small selection of recommended apps, some of which are also used in the interactive exercises. It is not essential to explore these in advance, but if you feel ready to try them out, you can use these apps to increase your familiarity with the data.

If any of these apps are not compatible with your device, you can search similar titles and terms, or start by searching for ‘earth observation’.

Web browser based tools:

- ‘Earth Images Lite’ from GeoCento (select a region of the Earth using a simple tool and search for available data in that area).
- ‘Earth Explorer’ from USGS (similar process to Earth Images, but with much wider variety of data and comparison tools).
- ‘Worldview’ from NASA (user friendly interface to view data from the Terra and Aqua missions, and other data).
- ‘Earth Observatory’ from NASA (wide ranging website, which includes themed apps, image sets and comparison tools).

Mobile and tablet apps

- The apps listed below are all available on iOS devices, but some or equivalents may also be available on other platforms.

NASA apps:

- Earth Now (globe-based interface, showing EO data layers for the Earth’s ‘vital signs’).
- Earth Images (enables visual comparison between locations at different selected dates).

- NASA Viz (includes a range of browse-able EO images alongside other space-related imagery).

ESA apps:

- ESA App (main ESA app, which includes a browse-able selection of recent EO images).
-
- ESA CryoSat app (explore the CryoSat mission, current location, satellite details and data).
- ESA DUE ('Data User Element' app – providing links to various EO demonstration projects and data sets).
- ESA WIS (satellite tracking tool, to find current location of ESA satellites).

Other apps:

- Living Earth (globe-based weather app, with near-real time data layers, showing wind, cloud, temperature and storms).
- MeteoEarth (detailed globe-based weather app, which includes a range of data layers).
- GoSatWatch (globe-based interactive satellite tracking app).