

Package ‘thredds’

July 22, 2025

Title Crawler for Navigating THREDDS Catalogs

Description Provides a crawler for programmatically navigating THREDDS Data Server (<<https://www.unidata.ucar.edu/software/tds/>>) catalogs, and access dataset metadata and resources.

Version 0.1-4

Date 2023-09-01

Depends R (>= 3.0)

Imports R6, rlang, magrittr, httr, xml2

Suggests ncd4, testthat

Maintainer Emmanuel Blondel <emmanuel.blondel1@gmail.com>

URL <https://github.com/BigelowLab/thredds>,
<https://www.unidata.ucar.edu/software/tds/>

License MIT + file LICENSE

Encoding UTF-8

RoxygenNote 7.2.3

NeedsCompilation no

Author Ben Tupper [aut],
Emmanuel Blondel [aut, cre] (ORCID:
<<https://orcid.org/0000-0002-5870-5762>>),
Bigelow Laboratory for Ocean Sciences [cph]

Repository CRAN

Date/Publication 2023-09-01 09:40:01 UTC

Contents

build_xpath	2
CatalogNode	2
DatasetNode	6
get_catalog	8
get_xml_ns	8

grepl_it	9
is_xmlNode	9
parse_node	10
ServiceNode	10
thredds	11
ThreddsNode	12
xmlString	14
xml_children_names	14
xml_id	15

Index	16
--------------	-----------

build_xpath	<i>Build and xpath string, possibly using the user specified namespace prefix.</i>
-------------	--

Description

Build and xpath string, possibly using the user specified namespace prefix.

Usage

```
build_xpath(x, prefix = "d1", select = ".//")
```

Arguments

x	character one or more path segments
prefix	character by default "d1" prepended to each of the segements in x. If NA or length is 0 then ignore.
select	charcater, by default search anywhere in the current node with ".//"

Value

xpath descriptor

CatalogNode	<i>A class for Catalogs (which may contain catalogs references or datasets)</i>
-------------	---

Description

A catalog representation that subclasses from ThreddsNode

Super class

```
thredds::ThreddsNode -> CatalogNode
```

Methods**Public methods:**

- `CatalogNode$list_services()`
- `CatalogNode$list_catalogs()`
- `CatalogNode$list_datasets()`
- `CatalogNode$get_catalogs()`
- `CatalogNode$get_datasets()`
- `CatalogNode$get_dataset_names()`
- `CatalogNode$get_catalog_names()`
- `CatalogNode$parse_catalog_node()`
- `CatalogNode$parse_dataset_node()`
- `CatalogNode$print()`
- `CatalogNode$clone()`

Method `list_services()`: list available services

Usage:

```
CatalogNode$list_services(  
  xpath = build_xpath("service", prefix = self$prefix),  
  form = "list"  
)
```

Arguments:

`xpath` character, the xpath specifications

`form` character, either "list" or "table"

Returns: list of zero or more character vectors

Method `list_catalogs()`: list available catalogRefs

Usage:

```
CatalogNode$list_catalogs(  
  xpath = build_xpath(c("dataset", "catalogRef"), prefix = self$prefix),  
  form = "list"  
)
```

Arguments:

`xpath` character, the xpath descriptor

`form` character, either "list" or "table"

Returns: a list with zero or more character vectors

Method `list_datasets()`: list available datasets

Usage:

```
CatalogNode$list_datasets(  
  xpath = build_xpath(c("dataset", "dataset"), prefix = self$prefix),  
  form = "list"  
)
```

Arguments:

xpath character, the xpath descriptor
 form character, either "list" or "table"

Returns: a list with zero or more character vectors

Method `get_catalogs()`: Retrieve a list one or more of child catalogs

Usage:

```
CatalogNode$get_catalogs(
  index,
  xpath = build_xpath(c("dataset", "catalogRef"), prefix = self$prefix)
)
```

Arguments:

index integer index (1,...,nChild), indices or name(s)
 xpath character xpath representation

Returns: a list of Catalog class objects, possibly NULL

Method `get_datasets()`: Retrieve list one or more dataset children

Usage:

```
CatalogNode$get_datasets(
  index,
  xpath = build_xpath(c("dataset", "dataset"), prefix = self$prefix)
)
```

Arguments:

index the integer index (1,...,nChild), indices or name(s)
 xpath character xpath representation

Returns: a list of Dataset objects or NULL

Method `get_dataset_names()`: Retrieve list zero or more dataset child names. If unnnamed, then we substitute "title", "ID", "urlPath", or "href" in that order of availability.

Usage:

```
CatalogNode$get_dataset_names(
  xpath = build_xpath(c("dataset", "dataset"), prefix = self$prefix)
)
```

Arguments:

xpath character xpath representation
 index the integer index (1,...,nChild), indices or name(s)

Returns: character vector of zero or more names

Method `get_catalog_names()`: Retrieve list zero or more catalog child names. If unnnamed, then we substitute "title", "ID", "urlPath" or href" in that order of availability.

Usage:

```
CatalogNode$get_catalog_names(
  xpath = build_xpath(c("dataset", "catalogRef"), prefix = self$prefix)
)
```

Arguments:

xpath character xpath representation

index the integer index (1,...,nChild), indices or name(s)

Returns: character vector of zero or more names

Method parse_catalog_node(): Parse a catalog node

Usage:

CatalogNode\$parse_catalog_node(x)

Arguments:

x xml_node

Returns: Catalog class object

Method parse_dataset_node(): Parse a dataset node

Usage:

CatalogNode\$parse_dataset_node(x)

Arguments:

x xml_node

Returns: Dataset class object

Method print(): print method

Usage:

CatalogNode\$print(prefix = "")

Arguments:

prefix character, to be printed before each line of output (like spaces)

... other arguments for superclass

Method clone(): The objects of this class are cloneable with this method.

Usage:

CatalogNode\$clone(deep = FALSE)

Arguments:

deep Whether to make a deep clone.

Examples

```
library(thredds)
top_uri <- 'https://oceandata.sci.gsfc.nasa.gov/opendap/catalog.xml'
Top <- thredds::CatalogNode$new(top_uri)

#to browse catalogue
#Top$browse()

#go down in 'MODISA' catalog
L3 <- Top$get_catalogs("MODISA")["MODISA"]$get_catalogs()[[1]]
```

```

#see what's available for 2009
catalog2009 <- L3$get_catalogs("2009")[[1]]

#get catalog for 2009-01-20
doy <- format(as.Date("2009-01-20"), "%m%d")
catalog20 <- catalog2009$get_catalogs(doy)[[doy]]

#get dataset node
chl <- catalog20$get_datasets("AQUA_MODIS.20090120.L3m.DAY.CHL.chlor_a.4km.nc")[[1]]

#retrieve the relative URL, and add it to the base URL for the service.
#Somewhat awkwardly, the relative URL comes prepended with a path separator, so we
#use straight up `paste0` to append to the base_uri.
#if(require("ncdf4")){
#  base_uri <- "https://oceandata.sci.gsfc.nasa.gov:443/opendap"
#  uri <- paste0(base_uri, chl[["AQUA_MODIS.20090120.L3m.DAY.CHL.chlor_a.4km.nc"]$url)
#  NC <- ncdf4::nc_open(uri)
#}

```

DatasetNode

A class for a single dataset reference

Description

A direct Dataset representation that subclasses from ThreddsNode

Super class

`thredds::ThreddsNode` -> DatasetNode

Public fields

name character, often the filename

dataSize numeric, size in bytes

date character, modification date

Methods

Public methods:

- `DatasetNode$new()`
- `DatasetNode$GET()`
- `DatasetNode$get_url()`
- `DatasetNode$list_access()`
- `DatasetNode$print()`
- `DatasetNode$clone()`

Method `new()`: initialize an instance of ServiceNode

Usage:

```
DatasetNode$new(x, ...)
```

Arguments:

x url or xml2::xml_node

... arguments for superclass initialization

Method `GET()`: Overrides the GET method of the superclass. GET is not permitted

Usage:

```
DatasetNode$GET()
```

Returns: NULL

Method `get_url()`: Retrieve the relative URL for a dataset.

Usage:

```
DatasetNode$get_url(
  service = c("dap", "opendap", "wms")[1],
  sep = c("/", "")[2],
  ...
)
```

Arguments:

service character, the service to use. (default 'dap' equivalent to 'opendap') Ignored if 'url-Path' or 'href' is in the nodes' attributes.

sep character, typically "/" or "" (default), used for joined base_url to relative url

... other arguments for DatasetNode\$list_access

Returns: character

Method `list_access()`: list access methods

Usage:

```
DatasetNode$list_access(xpath = build_xpath("access", prefix = self$prefix))
```

Arguments:

xpath character, xpath descriptor

Returns: named list of character vectors or NULL

Method `print()`: print method

Usage:

```
DatasetNode$print(prefix = "")
```

Arguments:

prefix character, to be printed before each line of output (like spaces)

... other arguments for superclass

Method `clone()`: The objects of this class are cloneable with this method.

Usage:

```
DatasetNode$clone(deep = FALSE)
```

Arguments:

deep Whether to make a deep clone.

Note

For examples see [CatalogNode](#)

get_catalog	<i>Retrieve a catalog</i>
-------------	---------------------------

Description

Retrieve a catalog

Usage

```
get_catalog(uri, ...)
```

Arguments

- uri the URI of the catalog
- ... further arguments for parse_node

Value

ThreddsNodeRefClass or subclass or NULL

get_xml_ns	<i>Retrieve the namespaces for a resource</i>
------------	---

Description

Retrieve the namespaces for a resource

Usage

```
get_xml_ns(uri)
```

Arguments

- uri the URI of the catalog

Value

the output of [xml_ns](#)

grepl_it	<i>Determine if a vector of names match the greplargs</i>
----------	---

Description

Determine if a vector of names match the greplargs

Usage

```
grepl_it(x, greplargs = NULL)
```

Arguments

x	a vector of names
greplargs	NULL, vector or list

Value

logical vector

is_xmlNode	<i>Test if an object inherits from xml2::xml_node</i>
------------	---

Description

Test if an object inherits from xml2::xml_node

Usage

```
is_xmlNode(x, classname = "xml_node")
```

Arguments

x	object to test
classname	character, the class name to test against, by default 'xml_node'

Value

logical

parse_node	<i>Convert a node to an object inheriting from ThreddsNode</i>
------------	--

Description

Convert a node to an object inheriting from ThreddsNode

Usage

```
parse_node(node, url = NULL, verbose = FALSE, encoding = "UTF-8", ...)
```

Arguments

node	xml2::xml_node or an http::response object
url	character, optional url if a catalog or direct dataset
verbose	logical, by default FALSE
encoding	character, by default UTF-8
...	further arguments for instantiation of classes (such as ns = "foo")

Value

ThreddsNode class object or subclass

ServiceNode	<i>A simple class for parsing and holding service info</i>
-------------	--

Description

A Service representation that subclasses from ThreddsNode

Super class

```
thredds::ThreddsNode -> ServiceNode
```

Public fields

name	character
serviceType	character
base	character base url

Methods

Public methods:

- [ServiceNode\\$new\(\)](#)
- [ServiceNode\\$print\(\)](#)
- [ServiceNode\\$clone\(\)](#)

Method `new()`: initialize an instance of `ServiceNode`

Usage:

```
ServiceNode$new(x, ...)
```

Arguments:

x url or xml2::xml_node

... arguments for superclass initialization

Method `print()`: print method

Usage:

```
ServiceNode$print(prefix = "")
```

Arguments:

prefix character, to be printed before each line of output (like spaces)

... other arguments for superclass

Method `clone()`: The objects of this class are cloneable with this method.

Usage:

```
ServiceNode$clone(deep = FALSE)
```

Arguments:

deep Whether to make a deep clone.

Note

For examples see [CatalogNode](#)

Description

A limited crawler for programmatically navigating THREDDS catalogs.

ThreddsNode

A base representation that other nodes subclass from

Description

R6 base class for all other to inherit from

Public fields

url character - possibly wrong but usually right!

node xml2::xml_node

verbose logical

prefix xpath namespace prefix, NA or NULL or character() to ignore

tries numeric number of requests attempts before failing

encoding character, by default 'UTF-8'

base_url character, the base URL for the service

Methods

Public methods:

- [ThreddsNode\\$new\(\)](#)
- [ThreddsNode\\$print\(\)](#)
- [ThreddsNode\\$GET\(\)](#)
- [ThreddsNode\\$browse\(\)](#)
- [ThreddsNode\\$children_names\(\)](#)
- [ThreddsNode\\$clone\(\)](#)

Method `new()`: initialize an instance of ThreddsNode

Usage:

```
ThreddsNode$new(
  x,
  verbose = FALSE,
  n_tries = 3,
  prefix = NULL,
  ns_strip = FALSE,
  encoding = "UTF-8",
  base_url = ""
)
```

Arguments:

x url or xml2::xml_node

verbose logical, TRUE to be noisy (default FALSE)

n_tries numeric, defaults to 3

prefix character, the namespace to examine (default NULL, inherited when initialized)

ns_strip logical, if TRUE then strip namespace (default FALSE)
encoding character, by default 'UTF-8'
base_url character, the base URL for the service

Method print(): print method

Usage:

ThreddsNode\$print(prefix = "", ...)

Arguments:

prefix character, to be printed before each line of output (like spaces)
... other arguments (ignored for now)

Method GET(): Retrieve a node of the contents at this nodes URL

Usage:

ThreddsNode\$GET()

Returns: ThreddsNode or subclass or NULL

Method browse(): Browse the URL if possible

Usage:

ThreddsNode\$browse()

Method children_names(): Retrieve a vector of unique child names

Usage:

ThreddsNode\$children_names(...)

Arguments:

... further arguments for [xml_children_names](#)

Returns: a vector of zero or more child names

Method clone(): The objects of this class are cloneable with this method.

Usage:

ThreddsNode\$clone(deep = FALSE)

Arguments:

deep Whether to make a deep clone.

Note

Abstract class. For examples see [CatalogNode](#)

xmlString	<i>Convert xm2::xml_node to character</i>
-----------	---

Description

Convert xm2::xml_node to character

Usage

xmlString(x)

Arguments

x xmlNode

Value

character

xml_children_names	<i>Get the names of children</i>
--------------------	----------------------------------

Description

Get the names of children

Usage

xml_children_names(x, unique_only = TRUE)

Arguments

x xml2::xml_node
unique_only logical if TRUE remove duplicates

Value

zero or more child names.

`xml_id`*Retrieve an ID value for a node from it's attributes.*

Description

Retrieve an ID value for a node from it's attributes.

Usage

```
xml_id(x, atts = c("name", "title", "ID", "urlPath", "href"))
```

Arguments

<code>x</code>	xml node or a named character vector as per <code>xml_attrs</code>
<code>atts</code>	character, ordered vector of attribute names to use as an ID value As the list is stepped through if an attribute is missing or empty character then advance to the next, otherwise return that value

Value

character identifier, possibly an empty character (`character()`)

Index

`build_xpath`, [2](#)

`CatalogNode`, [2](#), [8](#), [11](#), [13](#)

`DatasetNode`, [6](#)

`get_catalog`, [8](#)

`get_xml_ns`, [8](#)

`grepl_it`, [9](#)

`is_xmlNode`, [9](#)

`parse_node`, [10](#)

`ServiceNode`, [10](#)

`thredds`, [11](#)

`thredds-package (thredds)`, [11](#)

`thredds::ThreddsNode`, [2](#), [6](#), [10](#)

`ThreddsNode`, [12](#)

`xml_children_names`, [13](#), [14](#)

`xml_id`, [15](#)

`xml_ns`, [8](#)

`xmlString`, [14](#)