

Advancing the Use of Historical Environmental Data through the Climate Database Modernization Program

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a National Resource

NOAA's Climate Database Modernization Program (CDMP) has been rescuing environmental data for more than ten years. During that time, information located on fragile media has been imaged and preserved, and historical data has been digitized to provide access to more than 55 million imaged records previously difficult to obtain or fully unavailable to the public. CDMP rescues many types of data, including ocean, terrestrial, and upper air. By digitizing national and international ship logbooks, global observations over the oceans are being made available to the International Comprehensive Ocean-Atmosphere Dataset (ICOADS) to enhance the spatial and temporal coverage of the most extensive surface marine meteorological archive in the world. Marine rescue efforts are not limited strictly to surface meteorological observations and also include projects related to sub-surface ocean observations, as well as biological and marine ecosystems information. CDMP coordinates with the RECovery of Logbooks And International Marine data (RECLAIM) project to locate, document and prioritize the rescue of new sources of data and metadata for future projects with the goal of increasing awareness and understanding of historical observing practices as well as augmenting data coverage in sparsely observed areas. Over the past decade, CDMP has also digitized large amounts of terrestrial data from data sparse areas around the globe. These data are essential to the International Surface Temperatures Initiative, a renewed effort at creating a comprehensive international data holding of all land meteorological data to address gaps including inadequate temporal and spatial coverage. By working with private and public sector partners towards a mission to make data available for science, CDMP is advancing understanding of the earth's physical environment and preserving the past for generations to come.



Numerous international projects within CDMP. Digitized data from these projects have been incorporated into various terrestrial & marine surface and upper air databases.

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English East India Company Logbooks

• Period of Record: 1789-1834

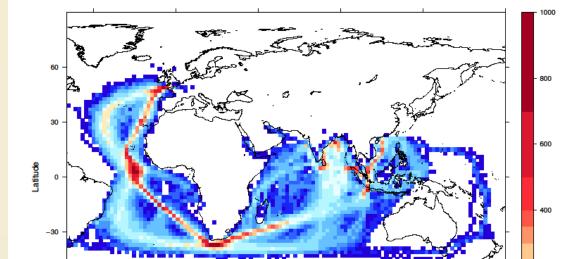
Spatial density of

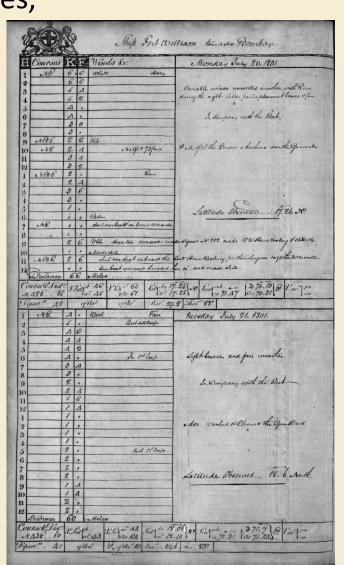
EEIC observations

• 893 logbooks digitized with instrumental data (pressure and air temperatures, few SSTs) in the Atlantic and Indian Oceans, with a small sample in the SW Pacific

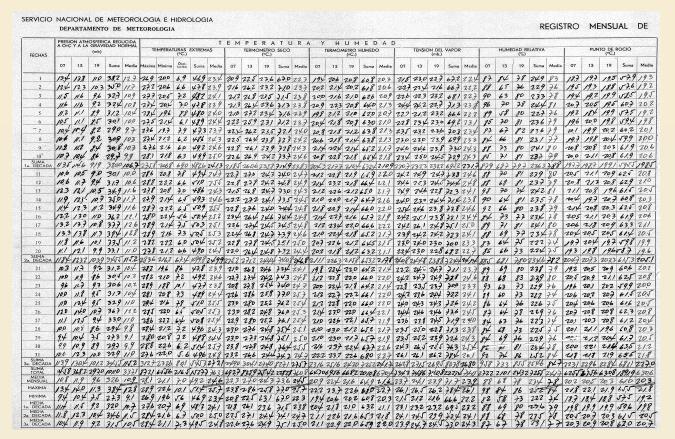
• 273K total observations will be blended into a future ICOADS release

• Digitization complete and observations are now available at NCDC

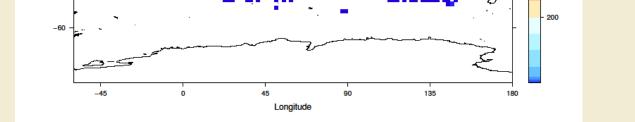




San Cristobal Island Surface Observations, Galapagos Islands, Ecuador

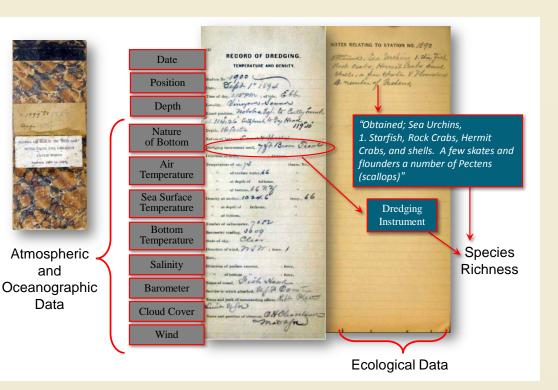


Surface observations have been taken at Puerto Baquerizo Moreno (.9°S, 89.6°W) on Isla San Cristobal in Ecuador's Galapagos Islands since 1967. There are no stations within 1,000 km which regularly report surface data for this period. This station is located in the heart of the East Pacific Cold Tongue.

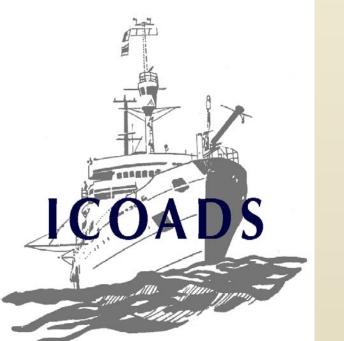


US Fish Commission Logbooks

- Period of Record: 1877-1948
- First US Research Vessels
- All logbooks archived at Smithsonian Institute have been imaged
- contain meteorological, oceanographic, and eco/biological data
- Additional Fish Commission and US Navy logbooks held at the US National Archives and Records Administration (NARA)







RECovery of Logbooks And International Marine data project (RECLAIM) and the International Comprehensive Ocean-Atmosphere Dataset (ICOADS)

US Hourly Surface Observations

- Period of Record: 1891-1981
- **410 Million** observations digitized!!
- Will be merged into NCDC Integrated Surface Daily (ISD) and other datasets. Currently awaiting metadata processing to accompany station data.



National Weather Service in Lander, WY 1906 (Courtesy of http://www.crh.noaa.gov/riw/?n=history)

Time Period, Frequency, and Parameters

The time period of coverage ranges from the 1830s through the 1970s with most data from the period prior to 1960. Each series typically includes observations for a number of meteorological and other geophysical parameters. These *may* include daily and monthly observations, as well as monthly and annual means, for:

surface temperature precipitation atmospheric pressu TABLE shewing the Amount of RAINFALL at different Stations in Mauritius wind speed and direction during the year 1863 soil temperature radiation Grand Port. sunshine cloudiness upper air measurements geomagnetism

Weather instruments on the roof of the Wold-Chamberlain Field Administration Building around 1945 (Courtesy of the Minnesota Historical Society, Photograph Collection). Photo: Ms. Lucille Sjostrom checking temperature and dew point sensors in the white shelter and the rain gage at far right while planes are taking off.

NOAA Central Library Foreign Data

CDMP imaged NOAA Central Library's collection of climate data from over 75 countries and former colonies. These data are suitable for a volunteer keying project. After digitization, these data will be incorporated into NOAA's GHCN daily and monthly, IGRA upper air and ISD surface databases. • Period of Record: 1830's-1970's

•315GB of data representing 5022 individual volumes •Some data already digitized by International Met.

Groups/Agencies

• Image Access:

http://docs.lib.noaa.gov/rescue/data rescue home.html

CDMP has provided support to assist RECLAIM and ICOADS in efforts to document and prioritize new global sources of historical marine data. Support has also been given to locate and image important metadata and national/international historical observing practices. In recent years, more than 4.59 million observations* have been digitized by CDMP and provided to ICOADS for blending. Additional sources (~1.69M reports) have been digitized and await translation to the International Maritime Meteorological Archive (IMMA) format for blending into future releases: English East India Company 1789-1834 (273K reports); German Maury Collection 1845-67 (544K reports); Swedish Lightvessels 1860-64, 1879-1922 (198K reports); Finnish Lightvessels 1900-16, 1919-57 (250K reports), US Lightships Collection 1916-82 (430K reports).

* Sources include UK Royal Navy WW2 logbooks, US and Canadian VOS delayed mode observations, US Marine Meteorological Journals

NCDC Foreign Data Library

Untapped, non-digital data/metadata reside in the NCDC Foreign Data Library. A thorough inventory needs to be completed to assess and prioritize sources for future digitization.

Th	e Fo	oreię	gn	Dat	a Li	brary (FDL)	
The best index we have for our "vast							
unknown'	' of for	eign da	ata:				
Detailed Listing of U Prior to Mid-1975 a		Table 16 ata Publications Arc ucing Archival Quali					
Main Geographic Area Covered by Publications	Period	Pages	Volume	Cost BSHR & PC	TDC		
World	1841-1973	219,000	24.3	10,950	6,570		
Tropic	1937-1970	14,400	1.6	720	432	2071 boxes of data in the FDI	
Hemisphere	1743-1974	172,800	19.2	8,640	5,184		
Oceans & Water Bodies	1648-1974	563,400	62.6	28,170	16,902		
Europe Aisa	1797-1973	159,600	17.7	7,980	4,788	CDMP multi-year project to	
British Isles	1845-1975	939,300	101.0	46,965	28,179		
Germany Philippines	1750-1975 1348-1975	1,382,700 924,900	153.6 102.8	69.135 46,245	41,481 27,747	inventory data suitable for	
Sunda islands	1866-1974	117,600	13.1	5.880	3,528	-	
General Australasia	1900-1969	7.200	0.8	360	216	keying in GHCN daily and	
New Zealand	1853-1975	400,200	44.5	20,010	12.006	monthly, IGRA upper air and	
Australia	1770-1974	351.000	39.0	17.550	10,530	ISD surface	
New Guinea	1914-1964	5,700	0.6	285	171	ISD Sufface	
Polynesia/Micronesia	1911-1975	223,500	24.8	11.175	6,705		
Polar Regions	1873-1972	194,400	21.6	9,720	5,832	Mah interface inventory will be	
Unprocessed/Noncatalogued	Varies	750.000	83.3	37,500	22,500	Web interface inventory will be	
TOTALS	1348-1975	25,216,000	2796.7	\$1,260,800	\$756,480	developed after inventory	
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