

Data Rescue Activities at NCEI

National Centers for
Environmental Information (NCEI)

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19 September 2024

Archives Overview

- Archive established in the 1930s
 - US Weather Bureau offices instructed to send records to the Data Tabulation Center in New Orleans
 - US Army and Navy records also consolidated here
- Moved to Asheville in 1951, to present location in 1994.
- Keying (first “punching”) began in the late 1950s. Cards fed into mainframe computers.
- Scanning began in the mid-late 1990s.



Archives Overview



- Total ~15,000 ft² (~1,400 m²)
- Main room 9,826 ft² (912 m²)

Archives Overview: Media

30-DAY FIRE DANGER AND FIRE WEATHER RECORD																								
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE WEATHER BUREAU																								
Agency <i>U.S. Forest Service</i>					Unit <i>San Bernardino N.F.</i>					Station name <i>Cutter Co. L.P.</i>														
Period (Month, day and year) From <i>July 21, 1944</i> To <i>July 31, 1944</i>																								
Elevation (Feet) <i>8502</i>										Pressure table (Inches) <i>23</i>														
BASIC OBSERVATION TIME <i>1530 POST</i> (<i>1430 P.</i> STANDARD TIME)																								
Fire Fuel Section										Buildup Index					Spread Index					FIRE DANGER PREDICTIONS				
Wind direction	Wind speed	Adjusted fuel moisture	Spread index	Fine fuel fire hazard	Wind direction	Wind speed	Adjusted fuel moisture	Spread index	Fine fuel fire hazard	Wind direction	Wind speed	Adjusted fuel moisture	Spread index	Fine fuel fire hazard	Wind direction	Wind speed	Adjusted fuel moisture	Spread index	Fine fuel fire hazard	Wind direction	Wind speed	Adjusted fuel moisture	Spread index	Fine fuel fire hazard
4	19	08	056	052	4	19	08	056	052	4	19	08	056	052	4	19	08	056	052	4	19	08	056	052



Paper: ~50,000 boxes

Primary collections:

- US Military observations
- US NWS & Pre-NWS obs
- Charts
- Publications
- “Foreign Data Library”

Archives Overview: Media



Microfilm

~130,000 reels

16mm and 35mm

Primary collections:

- US NWS radar
- US NWS charts
 - maps & autographic
- Non-US collections

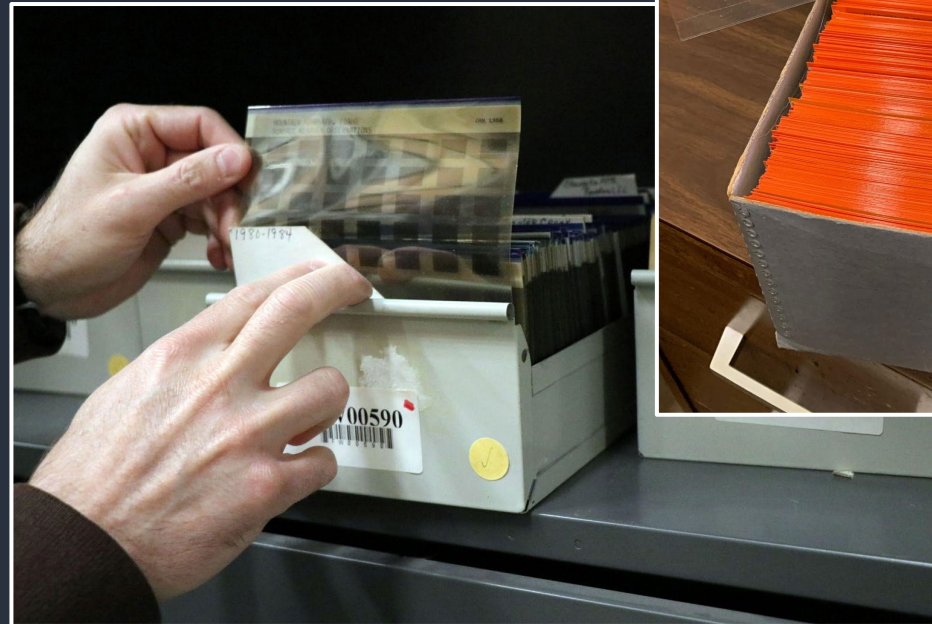
Archives Overview: Media

Microfiche

~800,000 pieces

Primary collections:

- US Military observations
- US NWS Cooperative obs



Archives Overview: Media

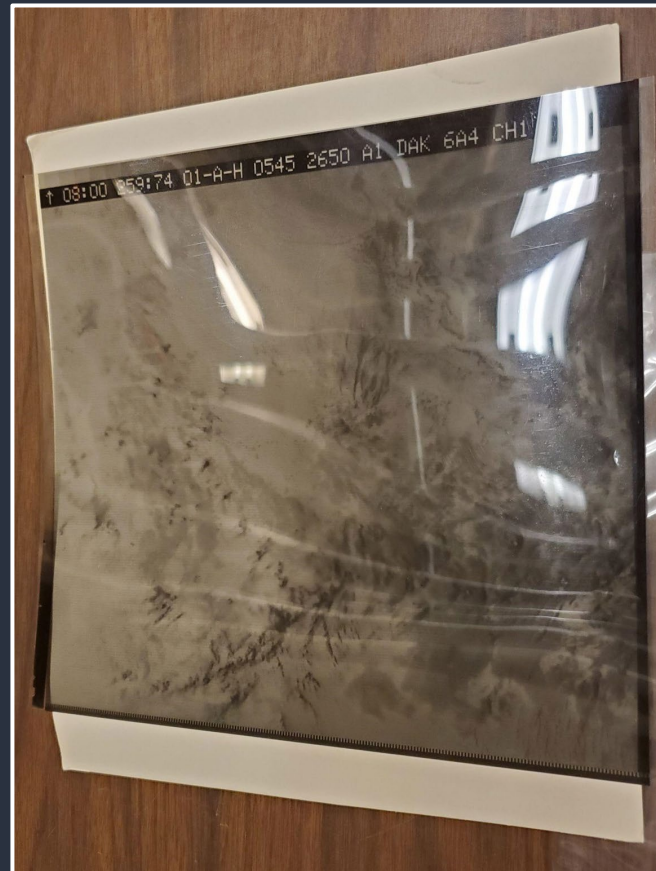
Other Films

~2,000 boxes

~15,000 canisters

Primary collection:

- US satellite observations
- Ionospheric observations



Data Rescue: the CDMP era



“The heyday of US environmental data rescue”

- 1999 - March 15, 2011
- US Congressional appropriation
- > 50 million records scanned
- TIFF, JPG, PDF formats
- More than weather

Data Rescue: Post-CDMP

- No dedicated program, project, or funding
- 1 to 2.5 FTE (Full-Time Equivalent)
 - analog archives management
 - cataloging
 - customer service
 - rescue/migration activities
- Complete collections begun under CDMP
- Respond to customer requests
- Utilize funds left over from other projects
- Leverage partnerships to rescue/migrate data



Data Rescue: Post-CDMP

	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Macau Publications	Yellow											
Coast Guard		Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green			Green	Green	Green
*Satellite Imagery (NHC)		Yellow										
*New Caledonia			Green									
*Satellite Imagery (NSIDC)			Yellow	Yellow								
*WWII US Navy Ships									Green	Green	Green	
Coop Obs MT/ID/WA/OR										Yellow		
Alaska Hourly Obs										Green	Green	Green
*Fire Weather Obs										Yellow	Yellow	Yellow
Tsunami Marigrams											Green	Green
Cooperative Obs WY												Yellow
Central Park Obs												Green

* External resources



Looking forward

- Expand inventory accessibility
- Enable public access
- Continue small projects
- Continue customer service
- Textract



Description	Country	Begin D
GENERAL RESULTS OF THE OBSERVATIONS IN MAGNETISM AND METEOROLOGY MADE AT MAKERSTOUN IN SCOTLAND IN THE OBSERVATORY OF GENERAL SIR THOMAS MAKDOUGALL BRISBANE WITH DETAILED TABLES OF RESULTS FOR THE YEARS 1845 AND 1846	UK	1845-01-
REFERENCE MANUAL FOR SURFACE MARINE CARD FORM 789 (1854-1953) SERIES 1-7	UK	1854-01-
REFERENCE MANUAL FOR SURFACE MARINE CARD FORMAT SERIES 15 (GERMAN) DATA (1860-1939)	UK	1860-01-
BRITISH ISLES WEATHER TYPES AND A REGISTER OF THE DAILY SEQUENCE OF CIRCULATION PATTERNS 1861-1971	UK	1861-01-
SYNOPTIC WEATHER-CHARTS OF THE INDIAN OCEAN FOR ... FEBRUARY, 1861	UK	1861-02-
CLIMATE AND WEATHER OF THE BRITISH ISLES, CLIMATE	UK	1868-01-
AIR FORCE-AWS PUBLICATIONS BRITISH ISLES	UK	1868-01-
GREAT BRITAIN DAILY WEATHER REPORT	UK	1868-07-



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