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Proposal of a centralized up-to-date web data-base for synthesis of all known mechanical properties of the snow – www.snow-mechanics.com

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During the last century and the beginning of the 21st century large amount of data on snow mechanics has been accumulated with the efforts of hundreds of researchers. Literature and data have been presented in many languages in journal articles, books and hard-to-find or out-of-print publications. Collectively, these works cover the most important mechanical properties of snow. But most of the data are not presented in one convenient, useful and up-to-date form, which summarizes empirical measurements related to snow mechanics. Any new related paper and research starts with a review of works known to its author. Reviews and comparisons are migrating in refreshed form from one paper to another but not collected at one centralized data base which could afford to present all known up-to-date data and make it easier to compare with newly obtained results. Such a centralized tool on principal mechanical properties of snow could be a long-awaited resource as we go forward into the 21st century. We would like to propose this idea and initiative to create such a source collectively for all snow scientists - www.snow-mechanics.com. All known and published observational and experimental results together could be a very useful analog of Wikipedia for snow. Good organization and usability of expanding amounts of generalized empirical digital data would allow investigators to obtain wider and deeper insights into processes, phenomena and their interactions and could become a very useful tool for researches to analyze, compare and clarify poorly understood or supported issues. We would like to attract attention to this proposal and to invite others to contribute ideas for its development and organization.