



Digitization and homogenization of Swiss climate series – DigiHom

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Large amounts of surface climate data from all over the globe still have not been digitized or have only been digitized in the form of monthly averages. While the latter have been tremendously helpful in historical climatology for many years, the monthly averages do not sufficiently cover the current user requirements and needs anymore. With the shift of the interest towards extremes in time and space and with new techniques to produce data products from such historical weather observations (such as historical reanalyses), these old data become once again valuable for scientific and other applications.

Recognizing the importance of this task, MeteoSwiss has started a program called DigiHom to DIGItize long-term surface time-series and to HOMogenize these data series. DigiHom will make an important contribution to the national and international climate observation system by means of long-term climate series of Switzerland. The surface observation stations processed within DigiHom are the long-term climate series of the newly defined Swiss National Basic Climatological Network (Swiss NBCN). This network defines the most valuable climatological stations in Switzerland and accordingly guarantees a long-term perspective of their operation. It consists of 28 climatological stations and 46 precipitation stations, covering all climatological regions of Switzerland. After the successful completion of DigiHom in 2010 the following climatological variables will be available electronically and in high-quality back to the year of their origin (most of them before 1900): temperature (mean, minimum, maximum), precipitation, sunshine duration and at some stations pressure. In this presentation we give an overview of the project and show first results.