



Online Access to Historical Solar Data: Efforts by UK Solar System Data Centre

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The UK Solar System Data Centre (UKSSDC) has been working to make two of its historical solar data sets accessible online. These data sets contribute to the long-term record of solar activity, pre-dating the space age by many decades. We believe that exploration of these data will give a new insight on solar variability and contribute towards solar and space weather research. We have already made available electronic copies of the Royal Observatory Greenwich Photo-Heliographic Reports for the years 1874-1976. These reports contain measurements of the positions and areas of sunspots and faculae taken from photographs of the Sun made routinely at various observatories. In our solar archive, we hold over 9000 images of the Sun on glass plates and 20,000 images as prints from years 1903-1942. Thanks to a Natural Environment Research Council grant we have been able to digitise the glass plate images and will be making them available via web-interface very soon. These images are mainly in visible and in K light, with a small number in H-alpha light. The UKSSDC is part of RAL Space based at Rutherford Appleton Laboratory with the electronic address: <http://www.ukssdc.ac.uk>. In addition to the historical data archive, we hold data from the SOHO, STEREO, and TRACE missions. UKSSDC is a UK national data archive facility with open data access and can be used by scientists around the globe.