

Some Ideas and Questions about Meteorological Libraries' Roles at the Internet Age

J.-P. Javelle and N. Cenac

Météo-France, D2C/Documentation, Paris Cedex 07, France (jean-pierre.javelle@meteo.fr)

The roles of specialized libraries have been deeply transformed during the last decade, because of the digital revolution and the changes it has induced on the expectations of library customers. The modernization of the information system of the Météo-France, libraries is in progress. Recent steps include the creation of an on-line photo library and of an institutional open-access repository for all Météo-France scientific publications (<http://hal-meteofrance.archives-ouvertes.fr/>). The central library has also been involved in the production of the new on-line version of the journal *La Météorologie*. The new information system will include the Météo-France bibliographic data base, the catalog of libraries and a full-text digital library. This modernization is also the opportunity to respond to growing interest in historical weather data and in the history of meteorology. Météo-France central library was created in 1878 and its collections hold even older documents coming from the Observatoire de Paris and from the Société météorologique de France. A program of digitalization of ancient publications has started with a double perspective : climate data rescue and contribution to history of meteorology. The new information portal will also display a catalog of ancient meteorological instruments.

In this modernization process, cooperation with other institutions has been encouraged, for example with CNRS (French National Research Agency) for the HAL institutional repository and the production of one-line version of *La Météorologie*. The importance of sharing information and expertise with other libraries from libraries networks and professional organisations is worth noting.

But several important questions remain to be answered, notably concerning the indexation, the evaluation and the long-term preservation of digital resources. For example, how to make digital collections and services available over time? What is the value of documents or resources that have not been submitted to any kind of peer-review process ? What digital resources should be preserved by the library?