



Data rescue of national and international meteorological observations at Deutscher Wetterdienst

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Deutscher Wetterdienst (DWD) houses in Offenbach and Hamburg huge archives of historical handwritten journals of weather observations. The archive comprises not only data from Germany, but also of the worldwide oceans and land stations from overseas.

There are four types of data collections:

- (1) yearbooks, original tables, observer diaries and micro films from German climate land stations (about 1000 stations) and approx. 10000 precipitation stations,
- (2) marine data records from sailing ships, steamers and light vessels, going back the beginning of the 19th century,
- (3) historical data from more than 1500 land stations in overseas 1830-1943 (e.g. from former German colonies) and
- (4) observations from signal stations, situated at the coasts of North and Baltic Sea (1877-1999). Digitisation and quality check of the enormous quantity of handwritten journals of all four data archives is still on-going. The digitised data will be freely accessible to all interested scientists.

The digitized data are a valuable source of historical information for climate investigations world wide. By providing additional time series, DWD also contributes to enhance regional data bases, as e.g. for the Southern African Science Service Centre for Climate Change and Adaptive Land Management (SASSCAL) - a Regional Science Service Centre (RSSC) in Southern Africa.

Just recently, digitized data from German colonial weather reports have been transfer to Qingdao Weather Bureau (China).

The data are also an important input for regional and global reanalyses.

The presentation will given an overview of the archives of Deutscher Wetterdienst and the status of the digitization efforts.