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Rescuing Ireland's climate and rainfall data

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Digitised long-term, high quality climatological series are vital in order to understand how the climate is actually changing. They are important for verification of climate models and to allow trends and extreme events to be assessed on a longer time scale.
Met Éireann's (the Irish Meteorological Services) archive contains climate and rainfall records going back to the mid 1800s. However, with the exception of the synoptic stations which are available from 1941, the daily rainfall and climate station records had not been digitised prior to 1961.
Met Éireann is involved in two data rescue projects. In 2016 we undertook a pilot project with the Geography Department, Maynooth University 'Integrating data rescue into the classroom.' As part of a climate change course 3rd year undergraduates Geography students learnt about the importance of data rescue and earned credits by rescuing daily rainfall. The pilot project was a success and was repeated in 2017. To date 2,900 years of daily rainfall have been rescued and the project is being continued in 2018. More recently, Met Éireann has started collaborating with the Central Statistic Office (CSO) to rescue climate data. At present the project is focused on rescuing all meteorological elements for Phoenix Park. Phoenix Park is an important station as it has a continuous climate record from the 1820s to present.
This presentation will review the experiences to date of rescuing the Phoenix Park climate data by the CSO and the rainfall data at Maynooth University. Methodologies such as supports in place for each project to answer queries about the data being rescued and quality control checks, for example the accuracy of data entry using double entry versus data checks will be discussed.