

Report from Met Office re: data rescue activities

Tim Legg, on behalf of Mark McCarthy, 13 May 2014

(We are guilty of being one of the countries not to have returned the questionnaire, as we do not yet have all the necessary information to hand, although I would say we have complete metadata for all stations with digitised data.)

At present we are really at the auditing stage: we have an active scoping project (led by Martin Sunter) looking at feasibility of scanning and digitisation of some of our archive holdings (available from a variety of sources – monthly weather summaries, rainfall log books, and various other manuscripts in our archives). The main requirement once audited will be a concentrated effort to do the digitisation itself, whether by automatic (character recognition) techniques or otherwise. Our archive staff have a cataloguing project – likely to take some years – to get a better idea of the full extent of what is available. We have research collaborations with the Centre for Ecology and Hydrology and with the British Geological Survey) on UK droughts that will require some digitisation. So in essence the focus currently is on auditing the potential for data recovery – plus the current work of Tim Legg (see poster displayed at Budapest) on assessing what and how much data we require in order to be able to gridded monthly analyses (most importantly for rainfall) with sufficient accuracy and an acceptably small degree of uncertainty.