



Data management for the International Polar Year

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The legacy of the International Geophysical Year and past International Polar Years is in the scientific data collected. The upcoming IPY will result in an unprecedented collection of geophysical and social science data from the Polar Regions. To realize the full scientific and interdisciplinary utility of these data it is essential to consider the design of data management systems early in the experimental planning process. This paper will present an array of high level data management considerations for the IPY including cross-disciplinary data access, essential documentation, system guidance, and long-term data archiving and how the IPY has begun to address these issues.

The primary means by which IPY is addressing data management is through the creation of a Data Policy and Management Subcommittee and by endorsing an IPY Data and Information Service as described in the IPY Framework document. We will review the initial work and future plans of these groups and describe how they fit into existing international data structures. The guidance from relevant international organizations such as the Joint Committee on Antarctic Data Management, the World Meteorological Organization, and the WCRP Climate and Cryosphere Programme will be discussed. The role of the Electronic Geophysical Year and other International Years will also be discussed.