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Subject: **FAQ: Data Sources**

Organization: Scientific Computing Division/NCAR, Boulder, CO

Newsgroup: sci.geo.meteorology

[Last changed: 3 Feb 1992. Still working on incorporating new info on ice data on CD-ROM, will be in next posting.]

This is a guide to the various sources of meteorological, oceanographic, and geophysical data. Some of these data types are intended for enjoyment or hobbyist use; other data are more research-oriented. The research data is, in general, not free.

This guide is divided into three sections. The first discusses data available over the internet (using FTP or telnet). The second section lists some CD-ROMS that are available from various sources. The third gives addresses for sources of research

data on tape.

Corrections, additions, and comments should be sent to Ilana Stern at ***ilana@ncar.ucar.edu***.

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**Data available via the network**

Current weather GIFs via FTP

***vmd.cso.uiuc.edu*** [128.174.5.98]

FTP; Change directory to ***phil.515*** and set transfer type to binary. GOES-7 visible and IR imagery are available. A script to retrieve GIFs automatically is available from the NCAR FTP area (see below).

Current weather data via telnet

**madlab.sprl.umich.edu 3000** [141.212.196.79]

telnet; include the '3000.' Menu driven.

**hermes.merit.edu** [35.1.48.150]

telnet; type **um-weather** at the "Which Host?" prompt and use menus. (Connects to madlab.sprl.umich.edu)

Research data (meteorological, oceanographic, geophysical)

**ncardata.ucar.edu** [128.117.8.111]

FTP; contains information on datasets available from NCAR, not actual data. If you

would like to order data after browsing this information, email to ***datahelp@ncar.ucar.edu***. Small datasets can be provided by FTP; we also write various kinds of tapes. See the *README* file on the toplevel. A shell archive containing scripts to retrieve GIFs from ***vmd.cso.uiuc.edu***, *get\_gifs*, is located in the *weather* subdirectory. This subdirectory also contains Colorado weather and ski reports. A few special datasets are located in the FTP area, and are free. They are described in the file 'pricing' on the toplevel.

## Digital photos of earth from space

***sseop.jsc.nasa.gov***

FTP: many pictures taken from the space shuttle. Files are in a 512x512 format as red, green, and blue bitmaps. Image files are binary format, and have .DAT as an extension.

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**Sources for CD-ROMs**

CD-ROMs tend to be relatively expensive, but can hold as much as 600 megabytes of data. Prices are current as of October 1991; prices for some discs are not known. Some discs are provided with driving software.

Weather data

**Climate Change Data** (price not known):  
Monthly 5-degree surface temperature anomaly grids 1854-1990, pressure grids 1873-1990. Monthly world temperature data at about 3500 stations and precipitation data at about 6500 stations, for period of record (long).

Contact: **Dr. Phil Jones**, Climactic Research Unit, University of East Anglia,  
Norwich NR4 7TJ United Kingdom.

**World Weather Disc (\$295):**

Monthly temp, precip, pressure, sunshine data for about 2000 world stations for period of record. Daily weather data at hundreds of US stations. Data for some stations on temp, precip, freeze, drought, soil moisture, wind, storms. Frequency and movement of tropical cyclones.

Contact: **Cliff Mass**, Dept. of Atmos. Sci. (AK40), University of Washington,  
Seattle, WA 98195. 206/685-0910.

**National Climate Info System (\$50):**

Monthly temperature, precipitation, Palmer drought index data for 344 climate divisions of US. Data can be viewed in tabular or graphical format.

Contact: **National Climatic Data Center**, Federal Building, Asheville, NC 28801.  
704/259-0682.

## Research data

### ***NMC gridpoint dataset*** (\$150):

Twice daily grids for the Northern Hemisphere at a resolution of about 381 km. Available from NCAR; email ***datahelp@ncar.ucar.edu***, or contact ***Ilana Stern*** at 303/497-1214 or ***ilana@ncar.ucar.edu***.

### ***National Geophysical Data Center*** (NGDC) discs:

Various discs available, including: ice and snow coverage, ocean sediment drilling data, ionospheric vertical soundings (\$100), solar variability (sunspots, magnetic field data, flares, tree-ring data -- \$100), geophysics of North America (earthquake data, magnetic fields, topography, gravity, geopolitical info -- \$600), and more.

Contact: ***NGDC***, 325 Broadway, Boulder, CO 80303. 303/497-6958.

***Global Ocean Temperature and Salinity*** (2 discs, \$80 each or \$124/both)

Temperature and salinity in the world ocean for about 1900-1990, based on all available XBTs, MBTs, BTs, etc.

Contact: ***National Oceanographic Data Center***, NOAA/NESDIS E/OC21, Washington, DC 20235. 202/673-5549.

***GALE and ERICA datasets:***

GALE (Genesis of Atlantic Lows), 1/15/86-4/15/86: ship data, raobs, aircraft, radar, etc off N Carolina coast. ERICA (Experiment on Rapidly Intensifying Cyclones over the Atlantic), 12/1/88-2/26/89: rawinsondes, aircraft, radar, buoys, satellite data, etc. Two CD-ROMs.

Contact: ***C. Kreitzberg***, Dept. of Physics and Atmospheric Science, Drexel University, Philadelphia, PA 19104.

A catalog containing a listing of these and other datasets available on CD-ROM may be obtained from ***NCAR*** (address above).



## Other data

### ***NASA discs:***

Various discs available, including: Voyager spacecraft images (12 discs, under \$20 each!), Viking images of Mars, Magellan Venus data, Halley's comet data (25 discs), excerpts from astronomical catalogs, and more.

Contact: **NSSCD** (NASA Space Science Data Center), Code 933.4, NASA Goddard Space Flight Center, Greenbelt, MD 20771. 301/286-6695. They publish a newsletter.

### ***CD-ROM, INC:***

Several hundred discs available, including: "GRIPS 2" high resolution images of topography, Landsat, vegetation maps, plus software (\$49), "JEDI" 3 discs full of earth, space, and sea science data intended for school use (\$31), 13 business/economic discs, >50 literature and entertainment discs, >40 health-related discs, many science discs. Prices range from \$29-\$895. Free catalog available from

them.

Contact: **CD-ROM, Inc**, 1667 Cole Blvd. Suite 400, Golden, CO 80401. 303/231-9373,  
FAX 303/231-9581.

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## Sources of research data on tape

### **National Center for Atmospheric Research** (NCAR):

We have over 400 datasets available to the research community. See above section on data available over the internet for information about accessing the NCAR data catalogs. Email to **[datahelp@ncar.ucar.edu](mailto:datahelp@ncar.ucar.edu)** for more information about any particular dataset, or to order data. NCAR Data Support Section, PO Box 3000, Boulder, CO 80307. 303/497-1219.

### **National Climatic Data Center** (NCDC):

NCDC, Federal Building, Asheville, NC 28801. 704/259-0682.

***NASA Space Science Data Center*** (NSSDC):

NSSCD, Code 933.4, NASA Goddard Space Flight Center, Greenbelt, MD 20771.  
301/286-6695.

***National Geophysical Data Center*** (NGDC):

NGDC, 325 Broadway, Boulder, CO 80303. 303/497-6958.

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DISCLAIMER: Although I work for NCAR, and this posting could be construed as an advertisement since we charge for data services, please remember that NCAR is a non-profit government organization operated by UCAR under a grant from the NSF. Our charges reflect the actual cost of data retrieval and magnetic media. I receive no benefit from you ordering data; in fact, my co-workers will likely be mad at me for generating more work for us to do! :-)

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/\            Ilana Stern DOD#009|"I can say from experience that I've never been  
  \\_][        ilana@ncar.ucar.edu|killed while not wearing a helmet, nor while  
    \\_        \_\_\_\_\_|wearing one."    Tod Johnson, tjohnson@prime.com