

## **The UK National Meteorological Library and Archive**

The National Meteorological Library and Archive holds one of the most comprehensive collections on meteorology anywhere in the world.

### **Scope of the National Meteorological Archive**

The purpose of the National Meteorological Archive is to hold weather data and information to maintain the nation's memory of the weather.

The archive is an approved Place of Deposit under the Public Records Act 1958, and, as such, is designated to hold:

- technical records of the Meteorological Office (Met Office) created at England and Wales ocean weather stations and overseas stations since 1854;
- weather records collected by the Royal Meteorological Society, transferred in to the stewardship of the Met Office, 1850 to 1911;
- technical records of the Met Office created in Scotland since 1854 reside at the Met Office Edinburgh, and those created in Northern Ireland since 1854 reside at the Public Record Office of Northern Ireland in Belfast.

Archive holdings cover original printed and some electronic records. They include:

- registers of meteorological observations;
- working charts from the Met Office's Operations Centre;
- marine weather logbooks — world-wide records from both merchant and some Royal Navy ships;
- climatological returns — dating back to 1855, these cover temperature, wind, rainfall, solar radiation, snow and sunshine;
- autographic records — continuous records of temperature, wind, rainfall, etc;
- upper-air data from radiosonde and pilot-balloon ascents;
- a collection of historic meteorological literature, maintained in co-operation with the Royal Meteorological Society.

The collection also includes various non-technical documents such as private weather diaries, papers and pictures relating to meteorology and the Met Office.

### **Location**

The archive is based in three locations.

- The Meteorological Archive for England and Wales, based at Great Moor House, Exeter, a facility which the Met Office shares with the Devon Record Office
- The Meteorological Archive for Scotland, based at the Met Office in Edinburgh
- The Meteorological Archive for Northern Ireland, based at the Public Record Office of Northern Ireland in Belfast

### **Services**

The archive provides the following services.

- Enquiries via email, phone or in person
- A search facility for accessing the records
- Interpretation of charts and data

## **Access**

Visitors will be asked to register and provide proof of identity before they can use the archive.

Visitors may consult original documents and will be asked to comply with the search facility rules.

## **Scope of the National Meteorological Library**

The purpose of the National Meteorological Library is to make published weather information available, and to support the Met Office and the meteorological community by providing a targeted, proactive and flexible Library and Information Service.

The library holds more than 250,000 items, covering meteorology and climatology, plus related subjects such as fluid dynamics, physical oceanography and hydrometeorology.

The collection includes:

- journals;
- books;
- conference proceedings;
- reports and documents from international meteorological organisations;
- data;
- images (digital images, slides and photographs) illustrating aspects of meteorology.

## **Location**

The library is based at the Met Office in Exeter.

## **Services**

The library provides the following services.

- Inquiries via e-mail, phone or in person;
- Loan of books and some reports;
- Access to journals and other material for reference;
- Current awareness service — the Monthly Accessions List (MAL), which gives details of new books, papers and journal articles received during the previous month. MAL is available at <http://www.metoffice.gov.uk/corporate/library/molars/malcaopn.html>

## **Access**

Visitors may consult material in the library.

Members of the library are able to borrow material. Proof of identity will be required to become a member of the library.

## **Library and Archive Catalogue**

All items held in the library and archive are catalogued on the Unicorn library management system. The catalogue is available via the internet at <http://www.metoffice.gov.uk/corporate/library/index.html>