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DATA MANAGEMENT FOR THE INTERNATIONAL POLAR YEAR—ENSURING THE LEGACY

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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 scientific 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 presentation 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 ICSU/WMO Joint Committee for IPY created an international Data Policy and Management Subcommittee as a diverse group of data management and disciplinary experts, and charged them with determining the overall IPY data strategy, policy and organizational structure for IPY data management. The second IPY data management mechanism is an IPY Data and Information Service (DIS), which is the central component of the IPY data structure and is responsible for implementing the strategy defined by the data subcommittee.

The DIS involves dozens of archives and institutions around the world. It will serve as an overall data management coordinator and a central data portal for an internationally distributed data management system. It is working with individual IPY projects to ensure appropriate centralized data description and distributed archiving. Regional or discipline-specific “affinity centers” coordinated by the DIS will facilitate appropriate data description and archive.

This talk will present the current status of the IPY approach to Data Management.