



Frequently Asked Questions for Data Contributions to the World Data Service for Paleoclimatology

General

Why should I contribute my dataset to a domain repository like the WDS-Paleo rather than to a general-purpose repository like Zenodo?

Domain repositories are operated by a team of subject matter experts who will provide enhanced curation to your dataset. Domain repositories have advanced and subject-matter-specific dataset searches, making your dataset more discoverable. At a domain repository, your data is archived alongside, and in the same data and metadata formats as, other related datasets, allowing it to be more easily reused.

Should I contribute my dataset to multiple repositories?

Please contribute datasets to only one repository (for example, not to both WDS-Paleo and PANGAEA). Duplicate copies are redundant and confusing. We provide a federated search across datasets stewarded by WDS-Paleo, PANGAEA, and Neotoma at www.ncei.noaa.gov/access/paleo-search/.

Should my dataset have the same title as my publication?

Datasets are a separate research output from peer-reviewed publications, and generally will not have the same title as the publication. Dataset titles should describe the “what, where, when” of the data, whereas publication titles often focus on the main scientific findings. To ensure that your dataset is easily findable by readers of your publication, add your dataset DOI to the Data Availability Statement of your publication and provide publication information to the WDS-Paleo.

Can I make updates to my dataset if I discover an error?

Yes, please email paleo@noaa.gov with any corrections. To make other updates to the dataset (for example, adding new columns to a data table, updating age models, etc.), please contact us. We consider on a case-by-case basis whether these changes will require dataset versioning.

How should I reference my dataset in my publication’s Data Availability statement?

We recommend a statement such as: “Dataset is available from the NOAA World Data Service for Paleoclimatology at: <insert your dataset DOI or your dataset URL>.” Using the dataset DOI

assigned to your study is preferable. Some journals will accept the URL, but it is less robust to future changes in web addresses.

Timelines

Can my dataset be held offline while my journal article is in review?

Yes. We encourage contributors to prepare and submit their dataset before their manuscript is accepted for publication. This extra time allows data managers to review the files and prepare them for public release in advance of publication. When you submit your dataset, specify in your email that you would like the dataset to be held offline during peer review. Once you are ready for the dataset to be public, contact the data manager and your dataset will be live generally within a few days.

How soon can I receive a DOI for my dataset?

DOIs are minted generally within one to two weeks of your dataset becoming public. Some journals require dataset DOIs to be available soon after your paper is accepted for publication. In this case, it is a good idea to submit your dataset to the WDS-Paleo in advance of paper acceptance.

Does my journal article need to be accepted for publication before I submit my dataset?

No. We accept datasets with and without accompanying journal articles. If you are writing an article for publication, we recommend submitting your dataset to the WDS-Paleo while your paper is in peer review and before it has been officially accepted for publication. Some contributors prefer to keep their dataset offline until paper acceptance, but this is not a requirement and we can make datasets public at any time.

At what stage of my research process should I contribute data?

Given the overhead associated with numerous updates, we request that you contribute only stable, permanent versions of datasets. Once a dataset has been archived, we can correct any errors that are discovered. Please accumulate other changes, including new formats and additional metadata or data, and contribute these together in a new major version (e.g., version 2.0) of the complete dataset.

Dataset Scope and Formats

Are there size limitations for contributed datasets?

If your dataset is too large to fit in the Excel or text contribution templates, please email us with a description of your dataset and its size. We will review this information to ensure your dataset is within scope and may request that only essential variables are archived.

Can I provide datasets in formats other than your templates? For example, netcdf or LiPD (Linked Paleo Data)?

We accept gridded datasets in netcdf format if all metadata are also provided in an accompanying NOAA template file. We also accept LiPD files if they are submitted in addition to the NOAA template. For all other formats, please contact us at paleo@noaa.gov.

Do you accept calibration data (e.g., core-top or observational data used to calibrate proxies for reconstructions) or modern instrumental data that was collected at my site (e.g., cave monitoring data)?

Yes. We archive and provide this type of data as long as it is relevant to interpreting or calibrating paleo datasets, is in one of our acceptable formats, and meets size constraints.

Can I contribute pollen, plant macrofossil, and/or faunal assemblage data to the WDS-Paleo?

We recommend contributing these types of assemblage data to the [Neotoma database](#), where they will be curated by experts in paleoecology. The WDS-Paleo does, however, welcome reconstructions of paleoclimate or paleoenvironment generated from assemblage data.

How do I contribute a recollection of tree ring data?

Please follow the [instructions for ITRDB contributions](#) and also send us either the ITRDB code or study ID for the site that you have recollected. Your contribution will be a new study, but will reference the original collection.

Please email other questions to paleo@noaa.gov

