



INTERNATIONAL Tree-Ring Data Bank NEWSLETTER

ITRDB COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Harold C. Fritts, Chairman, Tucson
Bernd Becker, Stuttgart
Zdzisław Bednarz, Krakow
Jon Pilcher, Belfast
Charles Stockton, Tucson

MANAGER AND EDITOR

Karen Babcock
Laboratory of Tree-Ring Research
University of Arizona
Tucson, Arizona 85721
U.S.A.

Linda Drew, Technical Assistant, Tucson

VOLUME 1, NUMBER 1

JULY, 1975

With this first *Newsletter* the International Tree-Ring Data Bank officially solicits contributions. The Data Bank and its communication medium, the *Newsletter*, are an outgrowth of discussion among 27 dendrochronologists in an International Workshop on Dendroclimatology held April 15-26, 1974, in Tucson. It was agreed at that time that a central storehouse of tree-ring data from around the world is essential for 1) optimal research data availability, and 2) protection of data from loss due to laboratories which may dissolve and scientists who retire.

The purpose of this *Newsletter* is to keep interested scientists informed on requirements of data entry, listings of data on file, and methods and costs involved in submitting and retrieving data.

The International Tree-Ring Data Bank is a *professional Data Bank* and some discretion on the quality of data entered is essential. Therefore, all contributions to the Data Bank must meet the minimal requirements set forth in this and subsequent issues of the *Newsletter*. All contributions to and inquiries concerning the ITRDB should be addressed to the Data Bank Manager at the above address.

SOLICITATION AND REQUIREMENTS FOR DATA

Initial solicitation of Data Bank entries is for climate-related materials, as was agreed in April, 1974. Holdings by the Data Bank, and therefore requirements for entry, will consist of completed Site Information Sheets (copies enclosed), original tree-ring width measurements by individual radius, and standardized indices if they have been provided by the contributor. Indices without ring widths will *not* be included as a part of the official Data Bank. Minimum quality requirements for ring-width measurements to be entered into the Data Bank are that

- 1) They must have a minimum length of 100 years, but 200- to 300-year length is desirable.
- 2) There must be a minimum number of 10 trees, per species and site, with two measured radii per tree. For moderate sites 20 or more trees are most desirable.
- 3) All materials must be calendrically dated and absolutely crossdated within the sample and with other data from the same area. *This is an ABSOLUTE REQUIREMENT.* Please do not send undated material.

It is assumed that the scientist doing the work will be the person supplying the materials. Contributions of other people's work are acceptable if the tree site data, accuracy, and quality can be absolutely verified. Such exceptions should be fully explained in an accompanying letter. Consideration cannot be given to chronologies not meeting these requirements, and in many cases the contributor will want to apply more rigorous requirements.

SITE INFORMATION SHEET

The Site Information Sheet, *required with all data entries*, has been developed and agreed upon by the official Data Bank Committee whose members are listed on the masthead. Members of this committee were selected at the April 1974 meeting. The enclosed version of the Site Information Sheet is for use with samples of living trees. Similar forms for historical, geological, archaeological, densitometric, and other kinds of data entries will be developed

SITE INFORMATION SHEET, continued

and distributed as the ITRDB expands its services and types of holdings. On the S.I. Sheet the contributor is able to designate his data as either available to all Data Bank users or available with his direct permission only. A signature is essential to make this designation valid. Either classification can be changed by the contributor at any time. Please use these S.I. Sheets as printed; more copies are available on request. If the contributor wishes to include site photos and maps with the S.I. Sheet, the Data Bank has the facilities to store and retrieve them.

After using the Site Information Sheet, if you find critically important changes or additions to be made in it, please address suggestions to the Data Bank Manager.

FORMAT OF ENTRIES

For most rapid entry at this time, submission should be on computer cards, using the format specified in the enclosure accompanying this *Newsletter*. At a later date the computer card format will be altered for more efficiency and a new sheet describing format will be sent to Data Bank users via another *Newsletter*. If it is not possible to send data in card form, measurements should be tabulated by radius with clear identification number and decade labelings, to be keypunched at the Laboratory of Tree-Ring Research, preferably at the contributor's expense.

DATA RETRIEVAL PROCEDURES

All contributors may request use of any data held by the Data Bank, and such materials will be made available according to the classification of availability assigned by the contributor and according to the fee schedule

DATA RETRIEVAL PROCEDURES, continued

yet to be established. Details of data retrieval will be discussed further in later *Newsletters*. While the Data Bank is under development, we will not be able to offer retrieval for noncontributors. Depending upon the speed of development and the rate of contributions, we hope to offer some limited services within a year.

COSTS

No funds have been obtained as yet for the development of the ITRDB, and the Data Bank must eventually become self-supporting. Initially and on a limited basis, for those with no funds but valid data, we can cover the costs if the data are provided in a suitably clear form. User fees will be established on an actual cost basis to cover keypunching, computer costs, and mailing charges.

* * * * *

It is hoped that with care and enthusiasm on the part of contributing dendrochronologists the International Tree-Ring Data Bank will soon become an important source of worldwide tree-ring materials.