

The ICHM Current Bibliography Project

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The ICHM Current Bibliography Project is a bibliography of secondary literature in the history of the atmospheric sciences published in the last twenty years. The poster will address several issues.

The issue most important to the future of the ICHM will be the delineation of the scope of subject matter, which is now conceived as being inclusive of a broad range of cultural responses to atmosphere and climate, in addition to the history meteorology proper. This would include scientific disciplines such as climatology, as well as meteorological ideas in popular culture (e.g. almanacs, weather broadcasting, etc.), and ideas about weather outside of the course of Western science. It must also be determined what areas are already better represented in existing bibliographic works, such as the Meteorological and Geophysical Abstracts. The types of material admissible to the bibliography will also be discussed, in terms of format, but also in terms the inclusion of non-historical works.

The second major issue discussed will be the categorization of the works, not only with respect to ease of use, but also in terms of the politically charged problems of labeling non-Western traditions, as well as local and indigenous relationships to weather and climate. The ISIS current bibliography assigns Arabic science, for instance, a chronological position between ancient and modern, as well as Chinese science. Local, indigenous, and folk beliefs might be of particular interest to the field of history of the atmospheric sciences, and need not only to be included, but need to be arranged in such as way as to be accessible to the field as a whole

The third issue will concern the possible modes of distribution for the finished work, and whether it is to become an on-going effort with periodic updates. Do we want a searchable database or something in a more traditional format? The eventual format of the online bibliography of the IUHPS might inform the ICHM contribution to that project, but might alternative forms of distribution also serve the members of ICHM?

The final issue will be an appeal for contributions and collaboration, which would delineate how members can help make the bibliography a more complete, international representation of the field, and how possible expansions of the project, including annotations, title translations, subject indexing, and notations on availability, might be accomplished.

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