



We believe the IPY-07 must concentrate on both collection of new observations and dissemination to a wide user community as rapidly as digital communications and science data management allows.

In addition to new data collection systems, the IPY-07 must focus on bringing the heritage polar data still in analog formats into the digital world. We still have field programs where the data collected are not yet in forms where the scientific community can fully exploit them. For a data sparse region of the globe, it is doubly important to make all potential data sets available.

We propose the following Data Management Goals for IPY-07

Goal 1: Data onto electronic media (electronify polar observations). Prioritize historic collections of polar observations for conversion to digital formats. Convert the high priority data and install these data sets into digital archives and promote their use through web services.

See also NSIDC submission ‘shining light on grey literature’

Goal 2: Metadata for all Polar Data: Assemble metadata from all polar data collections into a common catalog, and/or interchangeable metadata formats.

Goal 3: Connect digital polar data collections across the globe to enhance exchange of data and advancement of polar science. A Data Management System to service the Sensor Web.

Goal 4: Commit to an Electronic World Data Center System: Place all IPY-07 field campaign data in digital archives that are interconnected and able to instantly share metadata and data amongst the centers and with users.