**Workshop 1 Notes**

Sides from the speakers are available on the [project website](https://www.liverpool.ac.uk/geography-and-planning/research/building-uk-climate-resilience/)

Neil Macdonald – Introduction

Suraje Dessai & Kate Lonsdale– Introduction to the SPF UK Climate Resilience Programme. ‘This is the only network bid funded.’

Georgina Endfield – ‘TEMPEST! Exploring extreme weather history in the UK’

Andrew Black- ‘Introducing the Chronology of British Hydrological Events’

Jamie Hannaford – ‘Drought and flood risk estimation in a changing climate: a longer view’

Thomas Kjeldsen – ‘Mobilising Britain’s historical flood information in support of contemporary flood risk assessments’

**Discussion sessions**

Discussion to consider the following questions: Which databases are people using? How did/do you become aware of them? What elements are important? Geographical or temporal spread? What purpose do you use the database for and why? What are the problems/limitations of the databases?

**Discussion 1- Existing databases and applications**

Group discussion of existing climate databases and UK databases of value:

[TEMPEST](https://www.nottingham.ac.uk/geography/extreme-weather/search/)

DRY

[CBHE](http://www.cbhe.hydrology.org.uk/) (Chronology of British Hydrological Events)

[EURO-CLIMHIST](https://www.euroclimhist.unibe.ch/en/)

<https://www.tambora.org/>

<https://www.oldweather.org/>

[London Lives](https://www.londonlives.org/)

[Welsh Tithe Index](https://www.library.wales/collections/learn-more/maps/tithe-maps-of-wales/)

[Old Bailey online](https://www.oldbaileyonline.org/)

Placenames

[Mass Observation Archive](http://www.massobs.org.uk/)

[Sound Archives](https://www.bl.uk/subjects/sound)

Online Newspaper databases

<https://storiesofchange.ac.uk/>

Some of the challenges with existing databases include: not downloadable; search function(s); manageability – movement through database - clunky; absence of a map interface; use of different datasets

Who are the stakeholders, How do we design databases and for whom? User interface – who is intended user – needs to consider

***Temporal and/or spatial gaps UK / Challenges to use of records***

N. Ireland – little research undertaken

Instrumental, much could be done through transcription of data within Met Office archives

Narrative - stories, music and images unconsolidated records – few studies

Pre-1600 several sources discuss climate

Underused opportunity to couple crop series data with archival data – Bruce Campbell

Potential to calibrate overlap periods but requires rigorous approaches to bridging approaches, methodologically unrefined, no single approach, scale of project, for a large project acquiring all such information would require infrastructure - what would it look like?

***Engagement***

Citizen science success based often around key elements that work: Personalise, can someone follow a personal history e.g. old weather, follow a ship – potential family link

Place – where someone lived or visited, family history (potential outreach and engagement)

Engagement is key through potential schools, societies (RGS) etc – feed into teaching Conor Murphy’s module at Maynooth where they undertake blind duplicated digitisation of historical records

Potential for use of fictional space to illustrate stories…

***Creative means of developing engagement***

Consider: Place – Proximity – Impact – Record present

Placemaking

Fictional and historical stories

Creative approaches

‘Archive of the imagined’ – public opinion –overwhelmed / can cope

Literature landscapes – Identity and form – solastalgia (is a neologism that describes a form of mental or existential distress caused by environmental change, in many cases in reference to climate change, but also more localized events, flood, drought or volcanic eruption…), the term comes from Glenn Albrecht 2005. As weather frames our environment, so what happens when that weather is lost… (A modern form of archive documented what ‘we’ think weather is required?).

Tools for communication – Apocalyptic warnings disengage, ‘out-there’ turns people off

Change in place is important as engages with people, opportunities for storytelling that engages… can shape how people respond and emotively engage. Reflects changing demographics and transient populations – both new and old locations.

Poor law – transcriptions, might struggle to get into. Often local archives have letter written to someone local rather than from someone local, therefore weather accounts often depict a broad regional spread.

Consider [Volcanoes of the World](https://volcano.si.edu/) database – no focus on a single source. Archaeological to contemporary. Developed from [VOLGRIPA](http://www.bgs.ac.uk/vogripa/index.cfm). Magnitude of event recorded.

**Discussion 2 - Current uses of such databases and limitations**

Does the term database dis/en-courage involvement – does the language as academics we use influence the level of engagement.

***Value added***

Centralisation > linking to existing databases> avoid taking over > avoid duplication

Database use

Users lose out

Synergies

Platform for all databases to operate from

Single site that focuses attention

***Users from different disciplines***

UKRI – Datacentres EIDC – visibility beyond academia? Best place for ownership – EA?

Central Independent Databases – focus on presentation and standards

Quality control issues, who manages?

One hosting centre that links to other databases

Host(s) in one place – a one stop shop

Who uses the database and for what….

***Considerations***

Emotional resonance – databases can strip information out, that information could be the aspect that draws someone to look

Living people dislike being data

Postcode search can help engage by highlighting by area rather than event… help facilitate interest.

Historical perspective – Database – just a store or analyse as a tool for delivery

Re-archive or Information archive