

Interactive comment on “A digital archive of human activity in the McMurdo Dry Valleys, Antarctica” by Adrian Howkins et al.

Adrian Howkins et al.

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Received and published: 27 February 2020

We appreciate the reviewer's thoughtful comments and detailed assessment of the archive. We have provided responses to each point below.

Supplementary material: thank you for bringing this to our attention, we have attached the supplementary material (Table S1) to this comment and will include it in the final publication.

Data quality: we agree that it is important to note the variable quality of the data and metadata and will add an explanation to the revised manuscript as suggested.

Copyright: Unless otherwise stated, copyright for each item in the database remains with the respective contributor. If a reader wanted to gain permission to use the material

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in another venue, they would need to contact us or the copyright holder directly. We agree that this is important to note in the manuscript, and will add it to the final version.

Bounding Coordinates: The coordinates are as follows (decimal degrees): North (-77.504), South (-77.642), East (164.319), West (161.111). We will include these in the final manuscript.

Publications: Currently, the publications included in the archive are from the three-volume bibliography of Dry Valleys publications referenced in the first paragraph of section 2.1. Together, these three volumes cover published works from 1907 through 1994. We have identified hundreds of additional publications through a Web of Science query covering the entire written record, and plan to add their references to the database in the future. Regarding publications such as those produced by the Japanese research team: these are indeed included in the archive, and the reviewers' comment brought to our attention that the backend of the database had not been configured to index the 'Bibliographic Citation' field, which is why the search was not returning all of the results. We have since adjusted the search configuration, and publications such as those by Yuki Yusa now appear in the search results (e.g., type "Yusa" in the Search bar). The dearth of results when searching for publications on the Onyx River likely reflects the term "Onyx" being seldom used in the title or abstract of earlier Dry Valleys publications. This will change once we include the additional publications identified through the Web of Science.

Raw data: It is correct that the Environmental Data Initiative only holds the metadata. It may be possible to upload the raw data as well in the future, but the reviewer is correct in stating that presently, the raw data are the photographs, maps, etc. available in the digital archive. We thank the reviewer for bringing this to our attention and will clarify this text in the final version of the manuscript.

Story Map: We have amended the text on the story maps page to: "Follow the route of the 1911 expedition into the Dry Valleys, which was the first to spend significant time

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exploring the region.”

Please also note the supplement to this comment:

<https://www.earth-syst-sci-data-discuss.net/essd-2020-2/essd-2020-2-AC1-supplement.zip>

Interactive comment on Earth Syst. Sci. Data Discuss., <https://doi.org/10.5194/essd-2020-2>, 2020.