

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

Anonymous Referee #2

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This manuscript describes an invaluable collection of diverse historical material from key US and NZ locations in the MDVs. I believe compiling these resources is long overdue, and hope this online resource will provide a foundation for cataloging all future events and research in the MDVs (by all nations working in the ASMA). I see no issues with the paper as it stands. I agree with the other reviewer, having had a look at examples of the various resources online, some are of better quality than others, and perhaps this should be mentioned. But I believe the online tool is a great resource, and could prove especially useful as we start to experience rapid environmental change in the MDVs.

This is just a comment to the authors - I wonder whether the web-browser interface might also be able to house historic US human movement data

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- similar to a programme of work you probably know called the Antarctic Data Analysis project, run out of Manaaki Whenua - Landcare Research NZ, (<https://www.landcareresearch.co.nz/science/soils-and-landscapes/terrestrial-data-analysis-ross-sea-region/data-analysis/human-movement>) whereby human movement data (camp and sampling locations) were accessed from Antarctica New Zealand, annual data inputting into a database, and forms a layer in this management tool. Once the tool is up and running, data will be displayed and searchable, to build up a picture of historical human movement (by the NZ programme). It is a combination of these historic photos, maps, oral interviews, publications etc, and data, such as the human movement data, that will be very useful for environmental managers and decision makers as visitor (science and tourist) and environmental pressures increase in the coming years.

I liked the story maps. More of these would be great! I am sure the NZ Antarctic Programme has many many photos of the decommissioning of the Vanda Station (<https://adam.antarcticnz.govt.nz/nodes/view/37814>). It could be great to have all these resources combined and available on one site - but I know this is not possible, but perhaps adding links to other sites with reputable information would be useful.

The manuscript is well written. Great work on bringing together all those historic resources into one searchable tool.

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