



United States Department of the Interior

GEOLOGICAL SURVEY
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Dr. Roger Barry
WDC-A
CIRES, Campus Box 449
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Boulder, Colorado 80309

Dear Roger,

Thanks for your description of the status of the WDC data base for the Post-Mayo-Krimmel (PMK) photo collection. When I made my request for a PC based data base it was without much thought as to its size or that it is only about one-half complete. With knowledge of those facts I realize that my request was premature. You also mentioned a USGS glacier names data base. Is that of practical size for a PC (under 5 mbytes)? If so, I would find a copy of that very useful for the glacier inventory and photography work.

I am reminded that the indexing and microfilming of the PMK collection is incomplete every time I am forced to go the negative rolls to find a photo. Unfortunately the only way to finish the indexing and microfilming is dependent on money. As an estimate there are about 210 rolls and 50,000 frames not yet in the WDC-A data base. These are mostly 5", 7", lower-quality 9", and post-1981 photos. All the negatives are labelled, and a list of the labels exists for the 1984 and after photography (you have a copy of that list). Dave Hirst tells me that paper contact rolls will cost about \$500 per roll, or about \$2 per frame (the USGS photo lab can no longer do this type of job). Microfilming is much less expensive, about \$0.63 per frame. I suggest that we go directly to microfilm, without the additional paper contact roll.

Considering the grand architecture, the next step would be an organization by subject (glacier) rather than by negative sequence (which is approximately chronological). That would be a monumental task unless it could be done electronically. Video disks can do this, but the system I saw did not offer the image quality I would like. Perhaps a high-quality system would offer satisfactory resolution.

referral to usgs for gms data base

I do not have a source of funds to do any of this. I am optimistic that with the present interest in climate and global change there will be soon be funds to complete this data base. I will watch for such an opportunity from the USGS end.

Sincerely,



Robert M. Krimmel
Glaciologist

Copies to: Chief, ICP
R.S. Williams, GD

jo/disk3/rmkbarry