

International Association of Geomagnetism and Aeronomy



IGY+50: IAGA Task Group Proposal

Essential Ideas:

A number of “International Year” concepts are being discussed and developed, notably IHY, IPY, IYPE
IAGA has a keen interest in many of these "I*Y" as well as the CAWSES program and endorses their intent

IAGA wants to promote effective open access to:

Real-time, world-wide data

Existing data bases, and

Digitized versions of relevant analogue data



IGY+50 Proposal

We propose that IAGA contribute towards the IGY+50 initiative by:

Establishing an **Electronic Geophysical Year** (e-GY) as a Union-wide initiative

Supporting CAWSES as an IAGA-dominant I*Y

Providing input from IAGA to other I*Ys (IYPE, IHY, IPY)



Electronic Geophysical Year (e-GY)

Background: A key achievement of the IGY was the establishment of a world-wide system of data centres and physical observatories. The access to data that this observational framework provided triggered a leap forward in our understanding of the Earth and its space environment.

e-GY objectives: **i)** Revolutionise geophysical data availability and access worldwide through a coordinated international initiative, making full use of the capabilities offered by modern digital communications
ii) An output of e-GY will be a set of virtual observatories that will complement in cyberspace the contribution from physical observatories.

Suitability: e-GY objectives are a logical extension of IGY objectives. They embody the notions of global coordination and cooperation to achieve greater understanding of our Earth-Space environment through better use of observational data.



Principal Issues to be Addressed

Permission: e-GY will encourage identification and release of data, through both the lifting of access restrictions and sources with access restrictions and sources that active release rather than passive when possible

Access: instigate data access systems (internet-based), including the establishment of virtual observatories

A/D conversion: identify and digitise, and create electronic access to old analogue data.



Attractions of e-GY as an IGY+50 Initiative

Interdisciplinary - issues of data sharing and data accessibility are common to all the Associations of IUGG

Achievable - can be achieved in the time available before 2007

Timely - many nations/agencies already are moving toward "virtual observatory" concepts and GRID approaches

International: the proposed approach is inherently global in scope and character; data access is relevant to all countries regardless of whether they are rich or poor

Capacity Building: developing countries can use the infrastructure in ways most appropriate to their needs



Attractions of e-GY as an IGY+50 Initiative (2)

Conservative: captures and secures data holdings that may be at risk

Affordable: the enabling technologies for e-GY are being developed elsewhere and can be accessed at no cost to IUGG; we could expect to attract support for virtual observatories through participation in GRID-type initiatives that are already in place and are well-funded

Geophysics-the-Future: virtual observatories are attractive to young people

Appeal: Governments will be interested because e-GY embodies the application of technology to societal problems.