ISC Data Management Policy

Approved by a formal vote of the ISC Governing Council in Berlin on July 13, 2023

A. The ISC seismic parametric event data have a profoundly dynamic character. Our principal aim is to make ISC event data as accurate and complete as possible at any time:

- *either* within two years of seismic event occurrence, when reported earthquake data are added to the ISC database frequently,

- *or* for any historical period, when either previously unavailable datasets are retrospectively made available to the ISC after the date of standard Bulletin Review or when an error or omission in data is discovered or reported to the ISC,

- *or* at any point of significant change (e.g. complete Bulletin rebuild).

B. Tracking and preserving every change in the ISC database is an extremely cumbersome task. The number of changes will overwhelm any user trying to make sense of what happened to events or their period of interest. We nevertheless understand our user's need to reference an authoritative dataset such as the ISC Bulletin. In view of this, the ISC will:

- regularly (at the end of each data year) make:

    - an annual snapshot (text file) of all event hypocentres, moment tensors, magnitudes and comments in the ISC database and,

    - a corresponding database backup at the same point;

- store the annual snapshot (text file) in an openly accessible place on the ISC ftp-site *whilst* clearly indicating that these may not be the ISC's best available data;

- produce and store in an openly accessible place on the ISC ftp-site the monthly ISF formatted file at the point of release of each new data month.

C. The ISC will also actively recommend its data users preserve the results of their searches of the ISC Bulletin and other products. In particular:

- that the established legitimate data repositories are used by the ISC data users to submit and preserve their ISC search results to be able to reference those in scientific articles and other documentation;

- further to the above, we propose that ISC users submit their search results for safekeeping in the ISC Dataset Repository, which is a free long-term service for the community.

D. We shall arrange for versioning of other ISC products such as the ISC-GEM catalogue, GT database, and ISC-EHB dataset in addition to making update logs of major changes available.