

Interactive comment on “The surface temperatures of the earth: steps towards integrated understanding of variability and change” by C. J. Merchant et al.

Anonymous Referee #2

Received and published: 14 October 2013

Although the revised article is not purely scientific, it is very important for the scientific community and for the improvement of our knowledge concerning Earth's climate. The article reports the main results of a discussion conducted during the introductory meeting (workshop) held by the EarthTemp Network. A large number of very important and substantial new concepts and ideas is given, concerning data elaboration, homogenization, storage and handling. The proposed steps (recommendations) are concisely and clearly expressed. It appears to me that all of them should be circulated among scientists and scientific institutions as soon as possible, particularly among those involved in meteorological data storage and handling. Putting all of those recom-

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mendations into practise should significantly facilitate the access to all kind of surface data, and should improve our understanding of the variability and change of weather and climate on different spatial and temporal scales. The Reviewer's opinion is that the workshop discussion was very fruitful and profound and, since very comprehensive and excellent steps to improve the knowledge were formulated, it hardly requires any new suggestions to be included on the list of recommendations proposed in the revised article. The article is written in very good English and essentially does not contain even typing errors. I have found only one such error on page 312, line 24, where at the end of the line one 'and' should be deleted. In conclusion, the article is very well-written and important and as such should be published as soon as possible, and the Geosci. Instrum. Method. Data Syst. Discussion's journal seems to me the right place for it.

Interactive comment on Geosci. Instrum. Method. Data Syst. Discuss., 3, 305, 2013.

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