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Climate of the Past
Discussions
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Interactive comment on "Technical Note: The Linked Paleo Data framework – a common tongue for paleoclimatology" *by* N. P. McKay and J. Emile-Geay

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Reviewer 1 raises important points - can LiPD be a common format if it doesn't yet have buy-in from the community? There is a risk of proliferation of standards (see this cartoon: https://xkcd.com/927/) Of course, the paleoclimate community is dispersed across countries and proxies, so getting actual full community buy-in is impossible. And our community doesn't have any groups charged with setting community standards for paleoclimatic data - although NOAA Paleoclimatology, PANGAEA, and Neotoma (for paleoecological data) come close.

That said, I think this paper takes an important step forward. There is a need for

standard data formats that can be used to pass paleoclimatic data among databases, to gather data into paleoclimatic syntheses, and to export to analytical environments such as R. This paper is an appropriate place to propose such a format. Whether the format gains widespread adoption and/or modification is still to be determined.

Some of Reviewer 1's concerns might be addressed if the purpose of LiPD was clarified. I agree with Reviewer 1 that LiPD would not be a very good data entry format. The concerns about csv format are important.

Still, my sense is that the needs here are for textual revision (rethinking csv format and scaling back claims that this is already a community data format), rather than outright rejection. Climates of the Past seems like the natural place for this article.

-Jack Williams

Interactive comment on Clim. Past Discuss., 11, 4309, 2015.