

Interactive comment on “Content analysis for Agricultural Records of the United Kingdom, AD 200 to 1977: a study of frequency in human records concerning climate phenomenon” by D. H. Holt

Anonymous Referee #1

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The author seems to be a social scientist or a graduate of classical studies in search of a text relating to climate to which he can apply the method of content analysis. He applies it to a “text from the United Kingdom” named “Agricultural Records”. He does not know that this is a compilation, because he is not at all familiar with Historical Climatology. Just 4 of 14 the papers he quotes deal with Historical Climatology. All of them were written before 1990. Dealing with UK data, Holt does not even refer to the work of Hubert Lamb, who was one of the most prominent early historical climatologist. Compilations –Holt ignores the term – contain a mishmash of reliable and unreliable

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information, as we know since Bell and Ogilvie (1978) which the author does not know either. He claims that his text “provides excellent insight into the past climates of England”. Such an argumentation reveals a lack of basic understanding for the nature of historical sources and for history in general. The author is not aware of the fact that the terms he analyses were translated from Latin before the fourteenth or fifteenth century nor that the meaning of words changes over time. The conclusions drawn from the quantification are shallow.

Neither of the reviewers was a Historical Climatologist, which is somewhat strange, as this paper deals with Historical Climatology.

In my opinion, this article has no scientific value and should be rejected.

Interactive comment on Clim. Past Discuss., 7, 2555, 2011.