

***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***

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The research question discussed in this article is interesting. However, (1) the text corpus is inappropriate to allow for any serious representative investigation of the subject, (2) the author lacks experience in handling documentary evidence and is not up to date with the literature on historical climatology, (3) the conclusions drawn are completely out of proportion.

Concerning the first point, everything has been said already in the ongoing online dis-

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cussion. I have nothing to add.

Concerning the second point, the work of Hubert Lamb has not been mentioned; Brázdil's et al. state of the art article from 2005 was worth mentioning, as it contains quite a number of comments on documentary evidence and its analysis. It would also have been quite reasonable to consider the results and methods of the CLIWOC project which included an analysis of ship logbooks and their vocabulary.

Finally, the article lacks any sense of the cultural backgrounds of written record; as a result the author makes very general statements about "human" perceptions of climate - or rather: weather conditions, completely ignoring the fact that his analysis is based on highly selective evidence from Britain. Britain is not the world.

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

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