

***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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I think it is interesting that my paper is being reviewed as if is attempting to be an authoritative historical climate reconstruction! As the title of my papers shows - this is "a" study on a document. My intention was to show how a content analysis works and if it is a valid method of practice when looking at historical documents. The text i chose is a compilation that held my interest as it covers a wide range of time and was compiled on a royal decree. In my earlier drafts i left out many of the major climate historians, because my focus of this paper is not trying to reconstruct the climate of the

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world through a single text. Historical climatology is a difficult process.

I appreciate and AGREE with most of the reviewers here, but I do not think it diminishes the subject of my paper. This process worked well given the information I had available. The coding scheme was thorough and over the period of the text there is little variation in what is documented. I feel it is safe to conclude that the presumed bias to documents only focusing on negative or extreme climate is not supported in this study.

Further, the reason earthquakes are included is because a content analysis needs to minimize coding that falls into an "other" category. Also, it is of interest as many earthquakes can be verified. "Agricultural Records" clearly does not cover the whole climate of Lower Briton, nor does it do so accurately (this failure is included in my paper). The book that I ran the content analysis on is a problematic document on many levels, but it is a good starting point.

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

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7, C1546–C1547, 2011

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