

## ***Interactive comment on “Documentary data and the study of the past droughts: an overview of the state of the art worldwide” by Rudolf Brázdil et al.***

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Interactive comment on “Documentary data and the study of the past droughts: an overview of the state of the art worldwide” by Rudolf Brázdil et al.

Anonymous Referee #3 Received and published: 23 October 2018

The paper "Documentary data and the study of the past droughts: an overview of the state of the art worldwide" by R. Brazdil et al. aims at presenting the state of the art for spatial-temporal analyses of droughts derived from documentary evidence. It gives an excellent overview of the topic discussing types of documentary sources, methods for reconstructing droughts from them, long-term drought series and related forcings and impacts and in my opinion it will give a valuable contribution to the special issue

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in which it is going to be published. The overall quality of the paper is excellent: even though it is very long it does not contain unnecessary information as the length of the paper reflects the huge amount of work the authors performed to review the state of the art of past drought analyses worldwide. This huge amount of work is also clear from the long and complete list of references that is provided in the paper. This paper will really be a milestone for anyone interested in past drought reconstruction. The paper is also well-organized which makes it easy to read in spite of the very large amount of information that is provided. RE: We would like to thank the anonymous referee #3 for the generally very positive evaluation of our manuscript.

I therefore think that the paper can be published in its present form and the only minor suggestion I give to the authors is to consider whether it is really necessary separating section 4.2 from section 4.1. The differences between the events discussed in these two sections are in fact not completely clear and the events discussed in sections 4.2 could also be moved to section 4.1. RE: To explain our motivation for separating both sections: In Sect. 4.1 “Long-term precipitation and drought series” we present studies dealing with long-term series of droughts. The following Sect. 4.2 “Individual and major droughts events” aim at presenting contributions that discuss individual (important) drought episodes or only drought cases that do not represent long-term chronologies as in Sect. 4.1. To distinguish between both sections, we added the following sentence at the beginning of Sect 4.2: “While the previous section (Sect. 4.1) concentrated on papers dealing with long-term fluctuations in droughts, this section reviews studies oriented towards complex analyses of either one particular extreme drought event with its human consequences or a few such severe drought episodes. For example, Pankhurst (1966) reported 1888, a year of major El Niño, as excessively dry and hot in Ethiopia, ...”

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