

Authors significantly improved the quality of the manuscript in this revised version. All major objections were explained/incorporated. I recommend to do only several minor changes in the final version of the manuscript (see below). I believe that the whole article and especially the final guideline will represent a significant contribution to the development of historical climatology.

Suggested minor changes:

Line 712: Rather there should be „...calibration and verification... “. However, as the whole paragraph is dealing with the process of index development, the last sentence may be omitted.

Line 720: “... from the mean of the reference period)”

Lines 933–934: please consider formulation that is more correct: “During verification, index values calibrated to physical units (e.g. temperature degrees or precipitation amount) are compared with the instrumental data ...”

Line 939: Please consider using e.g. “...not stable through time... ” instead of “non-stationary“. Several types of “stationarity” (and non-stationarity) may be defined strictly in statistical sense.

Line 1024–1025: There should be “... at the risk of incorporating non-homogeneities.”