

## 1. Introduction

This document provides an overall description of the electronic documentation (e-doc) available for ICOADS Release 2.5. Please refer to the ICOADS website for further information and to obtain data products (<http://icoads.noaa.gov/>).

## 2. Conventions used in e-doc

We are in the process of migrating towards pdf format, and away from simple Ascii texts, for relevant e-doc files. Thus the present documentation is a mixture of these formats, with the following conventions in use within pdf (Ascii) documents:

- a) *Italics* are used (or angle brackets, i.e. <>, enclose) the names of individual files within the e-doc (e.g., <filename>), whereas directories are referred to by a preceding slash (e.g. /directname).
- b) In the Ascii format, curly brackets (i.e. {}) enclose section headings; or for software-related documentation, curly brackets enclose the names of software files (programs and libraries) or subprograms (subroutines and functions).
- c) In both formats, square brackets (i.e., []) usually enclose detailed discussion notes, e.g. regarding unresolved issues.
- d) Slutz et al. (1985) will be referred to simply as *Release 1*.

Note: The brackets used within the Ascii documentation are strictly notational, e.g. the angle brackets used for e-doc filenames must not be included as part of an ftp command or web URL.

## 3. Accessing e-doc

The e-doc is maintained at the NOAA Earth System Research Laboratory (ESRL) Physical Science Division (PSD), and is accessible via the ICOADS website (<http://icoads.noaa.gov/e-doc/>).

## 4. Directory structure and contents of the e-doc

Table 1 describes the directory structure and contents of the e-doc. Files describing commonly used data products are located in the main e-doc directory, and pdf files describing the new IMMA observational format are located in the "imma" directory. Files of a more technical interest are located in the "other" subdirectory. Throughout the e-doc, references may be made within one document to another document using the aforementioned plain text convention (e.g., <filename>), or in pdf files filename references are in *italics*.

Table 1. Structure of e-doc and the “other” subdirectory. Indentation shows the nested directory structure. Filenames without “.pdf” are plain text (Ascii).

<u>Filename or /subdirectory</u>	<u>Title (description or URL)</u>
<u>Information about commonly used products:</u>	
<i>Readme.pdf</i>	(this file)
<i>R2.5-citation.pdf</i>	Redistribution and Citation Information
<i>R2.5-stat_doc</i>	General Information about Statistics
<i>lmr</i>	Long Marine Reports/Fixed-length (LMR6/LMRF6)
<i>lmrf</i>	Overview of LMR Fixed-length (LMRF6)
<i>msg</i>	Monthly Summary Groups (MSG1)
<i>mstg</i>	Monthly Summary Trimmed Groups (MSTG2)
<i>soft_info</i>	User Software
<i>soft_lmr</i>	Software to Read/Write Long Marine Reports (LMR6)
<i>stat_trim</i>	Technical Information about Statistics and Related Processing [Note: to be replaced by <i>R2.5-stat_trim</i> , in preparation]
<u>Documents describing the IMMA format:</u>	
<i>/imma</i>	<a href="http://icoads.noaa.gov/e-doc/imma/">http://icoads.noaa.gov/e-doc/imma/</a>
<i>R2.5-imma.pdf</i>	Archival of Data Other than in IMMT Format: The International Maritime Meteorological Archive (IMMA) Format (complete document)
<i>R2.5-imma_short.pdf</i>	Appendices C-E only from the complete document
<i>WMO47IMMA_1973_2006-R2.4.pdf</i>	Description of Blending ICOADS and WMO Publication 47, Berry and Kent, June 2007
<i>WMO47IMMA_1966_2007-R2.5.pdf</i>	Description of Blending ICOADS and WMO Publication 47, Berry and Kent, June 2009
<u>Technical and additional information:</u>	
<i>/other</i>	[Note: These materials primarily describe early ICOADS Releases and are planned for replacement]
<i>conv_lmr5</i>	<a href="http://icoads.noaa.gov/e-doc/other/">http://icoads.noaa.gov/e-doc/other/</a>
<i>dupelim_1784</i>	Conversion Action for Release 1 (1800-1979) LMR5 Data Preconditioning and Duplicate Elim.: 1784-1949
<i>dupelim_1946</i>	Data Preconditioning and Duplicate Elim.: 1946-69
<i>dupelim_1970</i>	Data Preconditioning and Duplicate Elim.: 1970-79
<i>dupelim_1980</i>	Data Preconditioning and Duplicate Elim.: 1980-97
<i>dupelim_1998</i>	Data Preconditioning and Duplicate Elim.: 1998-2004
<i>dupelim_sum_1700s</i>	dupelim summary output: 1784-1799
<i>dupelim_sum_1800s</i>	dupelim summary output: 1800-1899
<i>dupelim_sum_1900s</i>	dupelim summary output: 1900-1949
<i>dupelim_sum_46-49</i>	dupelim summary output: 1946-49
<i>dupelim_sum_50-59</i>	dupelim summary output: 1950-59
<i>dupelim_sum_60-69</i>	dupelim summary output: 1960-69
<i>dupelim_sum_70-79</i>	dupelim summary output: 1970-79
<i>dupelim_sum_80-89</i>	dupelim summary output: 1980-89
<i>dupelim_sum_90-97</i>	dupelim summary output: 1990-97
<i>esm_dec93</i>	Earth System Monitor article, Dec. 1993)*
<i>esm_dec93_figs.tar.Z</i>	Earth System Monitor article, Dec. 1993, figs.*
<i>esm_sep93</i>	Earth System Monitor article, Sep. 1993*
<i>esm_sep93_figs.tar.Z</i>	Earth System Monitor article, Sep. 1993, figs.*
<i>french_lon</i>	French Int. Maritime Met. (IMM) Longitude Problem
<i>loc_disc</i>	10-deg Box Assignment Conventions at Loc. Disc.

Technical project information:

[/other/other](#)

<http://icoads.noaa.gov/e-doc/other/other/>

\* HTML versions available at: <http://icoads.noaa.gov/publications.html>.

---

### Reference

Slutz, R.J., S.J. Lubker, J.D. Hiscox, S.D. Woodruff, R.L. Jenne, D.H. Joseph, P.M. Steurer, and J.D. Elms, 1985: [Comprehensive Ocean-Atmosphere Data Set; Release 1](#). NOAA Environmental Research Laboratories, Climate Research Program, Boulder, CO, 268 pp. (NTIS PB86-105723).

### Document Revision Information

Previous document version: 22 September 2007. In conjunction with ICOADS Release 2.5, this document has been modernized in format and updated to reflect current documentation.