

## **An Open-Access Archive on Historical Seismology**

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The important contribution of historical earthquake data to seismological studies, in particular to seismic hazard assessment and related topics, is increasingly acknowledged by the international scientific community. Historical earthquake data stems from the written records of seismic effects of the past, as provided by the historical sources; as such, they supply the most important - if not the unique - evidence of earthquake activity before the early instrumental period. Historical Seismology has now established itself as a discipline with internationally recognized, rigorous procedures, for both retrieving historical data and interpreting them in seismological terms.

Around the world, historical earthquake data are collected by many organizations with varying criteria and degrees of commitment. A few countries only have a set of historical earthquake data accessible online; in many more countries scattered data are available on paper only. These materials often miss the international dissemination, also because of language problems, and wait to be made available to the scientific community.

An Open-Access Archive is being implemented in the framework of a IASPEI WG, designed to inventory and be capable of storing the studies (published or not) that provide historical earthquake data. A link is established between each study through an in-progress list of worldwide earthquakes. The Open-Access Archive is supported by a Hardcopy Archive from which the original studies are scanned and converted into searchable electronic documents; items in languages other than English will have a translated title. A demo version of the Archive is here presented, to discuss how it could be further developed and improved in the next years.