The UK Solar System Data Centre (UKSSDC) has been working to make two of its historical solar data sets accessible online. These data sets contribute to the long-term record of solar activity, pre-dating the space age by many decades. It is hoped that by making them more accessible to researchers and by publicising that availability, they can contribute new data to current areas of research.

**Photo-Heliographic Reports 1874 - 1976**

The UK Solar System Data Centre holds copies of the Royal Observatory Greenwich Photo-Heliographic Reports for the years 1874 to 1976. These reports contain measurements of the positions and area of sunspots and faculae taken from photographs of the sun made routinely at various observatories.

As well as greatly improving access to this data set, preserving a digital copy has become increasingly urgent as the oldest reports are in a very fragile condition.

Because of their condition the books were photographed rather than scanned.

The full reports are now available online, thanks to a collaboration between the UKSSDC and the National Geophysical Data Center (NGDC) at the US National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA).

The reports are available online as PDFs on the UKSSDC website at [http://www.ukssdc.ac.uk/wdcc1/RGOPHR/](http://www.ukssdc.ac.uk/wdcc1/RGOPHR/)

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**Images in the Basement**

The UK Solar System Data Centre has over 9000 images of the sun on glass plates, and 20,000 as prints, stored in a basement archive.

These images date from 1903 to 1942. They were taken by the Royal Observatory Greenwich and other observatories. The images are mainly in visible and in K light, with a small number in H-alpha light.

The catalogue of images is now available to search online on the UKSSDC website at [http://www.ukssdc.ac.uk/cgi-bin/wdcc1/secure/rog_image_availability.pl](http://www.ukssdc.ac.uk/cgi-bin/wdcc1/secure/rog_image_availability.pl)

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**Sunspots Ahoy!**

If you need to confirm a sunspot sighting from 1917 who do you turn to?

Citizen science project Old Weather is recovering world wide weather observations from ships logs.

Recently one of the log books threw up a naked eye sunspot observation on February 10th 1917.

News travelled via fellow citizen science project Solar Storm Watch to reach the UKSSDC with the question: “What did the sun look like on the 10th February 1917?”

“At noon a TS observed spots near the centre of the sun like this [diagram] it appeared to be two with a narrow passage between them, I make this note, for although I have seen sunspots before, I have never seen such large ones.”

With thanks to Solar Storm Watch and its users: [http://www.solarstormwatch.com/authors](http://www.solarstormwatch.com/authors)