

Earth Syst. Sci. Data Discuss., community comment CC2  
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## Reply on RC2

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Community comment on "MIS 5e sea-level history along the Pacific coast of North America" by Daniel R. Muhs, Earth Syst. Sci. Data Discuss.,  
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As topical editor of this Special Issue and the leading scientist behind the WALIS database idea, I would like to thank John Wehmiller for the specific comments on the database, mostly centered on the Amino Acid Racemization data table.

For the readers, I wish to clarify that the main aim of having the data in a standardized format is not to "supersede" original publications. Instead, it is to make the data contained therein more usable and available in a ready-to-analyze form. However, as John Wehmiller points out in his comment, nothing can indeed substitute the expertise of the person/team who originally collected the data, which should always be credited and to whom questions may be directed in case of doubts.

However, we should recognize that good data most often outlive our careers. Also, it is becoming increasingly clear that we cannot rely on publishers (that are, most often, companies that may eventually go out of business) to store data in the long term. Therefore, we need to prepare the best possible standardized templates and keep them in long-term archives. This is the driving concept of the entire WALIS special issue (and the associated database). Of note is that both data and papers are archived for long-term preservation. Data is stored in Zenodo, copies of papers are sent to the German National Library and other repositories, all independent from the publisher.

I would also like to point out that WALIS is not a "fixed" atlas, but it can be updated and improved through suggestions from the scientific community. The Special Issue serves to collect data for Version 1.0, to which hopefully many more will follow. The comments received from John Wehmiller on the AAR spreadsheet are exactly what WALIS needs to grow and improve through time. He knows better than anyone else those data, as he was the one who did the original analyses and wrote the original manuscripts from where the data was reported.

I encourage anyone who has their work cited in WALIS to look over the data they produced and get in touch with the editorial team if they notice discrepancies or suggest corrections. A track-changes system is in place in WALIS so that creating a new record without losing the original entry is possible, and credit to the "reviewer" will be given. John Wehmiller has set an excellent example of how to do that.