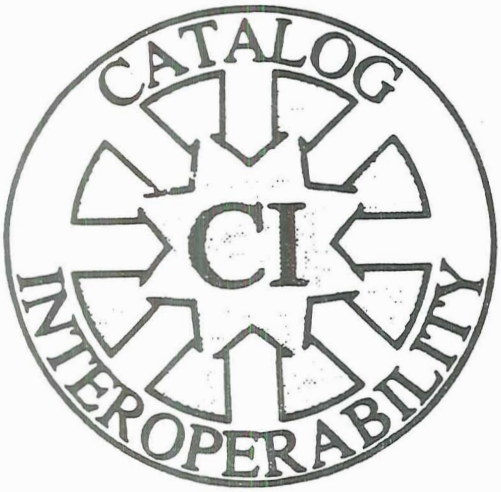
NSSDC NATIONAL SPACE SCIENCE DATA CENTER

WORLD DATA CENTER A for ROCKETS AND SATELLITES 89-19

The NASA Master Directory



Quick Reference Guide

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Goddard Space Flight Center

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NASA MASTER DIRECTORY QUICK REFERENCE GUIDE

1. INTRODUCTION TO THE MD

The NASA Master Directory (MD) is a free, online, multidisciplinary directory of space and Earth science data sets (NASA and non-NASA data) that are of potential interest to the NASA-sponsored research community. The MD contains high-level descriptions of data sets, other data systems and archives, and campaigns and projects. It provides mechanisms for searching for data sets by important criteria such as geophysical parameters, time, and spatial coverage. The MD also provides information on ordering the data.

The MD is *more* than just a directory, however. In order to simplify the process of finding more detailed information or accessing online data, the MD provides automatic connections to a number of data systems such as the NASA Climate Data System, the Planetary Data System, the NASA Ocean Data System, the Pilot Land Data System, and others. The MD also provides general information about many data systems, data centers, and coordinated data analysis projects. It represents the first major step in the Catalog Interoperability project, whose objective is to enable researchers to quickly and efficiently identify, obtain information about, and get access to space and Earth science data.

To learn how to get to the MD, see section 2. If you have trouble accessing the MD, or if you have questions regarding the NASA Master Directory or Catalog Interoperability, please contact Jim Thieman at (301) 286-9790 or Joy Beier at (301) 744-5289.

Features of the MD include:

- Capability of searching for data sets by any combination of keywords (discipline, location, geophysical parameter), start and stop dates, spacecraft or data source, sensor, geographic coverage, scientific project, and investigator;
- Easy-to-use menu, command, and screen-form interface that can be used with most terminal types (including smart and dumb terminals);
- Displays of data set information including title, summary, keywords, temporal and spatial coverage, archive information, data set personnel, and bibliographic references;
- Displays of data center information including data center services, contacts, access procedures, available distribution media, and costs;
- Displays of science project information such as scientific objectives, data characteristics, and contacts;
- Automatic connections to selected data systems or catalogs through a simple LINK command; and
- HELP from every MD screen.

2. ACCESSING THE MD

LOG ONTO THE NSSDC VAX 8650

Via SPAN

From SPAN nodes, enter **SET HOST NSSDCA** from the **$** prompt and enter **NSSDC** at the **Username:** prompt (there is no password).

Via Direct Dial

Set your terminal to full duplex, eight bits, no parity, one stop bit, and 300, 1200, or 2400 baud. Dial 301-286-9000. When the system responds with **CONNECT 1200** (or 300 or 2400), press return twice. At the **ENTER NUMBER:** prompt enter **MD** for the MD system. When you see the message **CALL COMPLETE**, press return for the **Username:** prompt. At the **Username:** prompt enter **NSSDC** (there is no password).

Via Telnet

From a Telnet node, enter **TELNET NSSDCA.GSFC.NASA.GOV** or **TELNET 128.183.10.4** at the system prompt. Enter **NSSDC** at the **Username:** prompt (there is no password).

SELECT THE NASA MASTER DIRECTORY OPTION FROM THE NSSDC MENU (Option #1)

The MD main menu will be displayed. From this menu you can select options to search for data set, data center, or project information (see the menu tree diagram at the end of the guide).

SELECT A SEARCH OPTION FROM THE MD MAIN MENU

Enter the number corresponding to the desired search option (data set, data center, or project information searching).

3. DATA SET SEARCHING

Data Set Information

CHOOSE YOUR DESIRED SEARCH CRITERIA

A search selection menu displays the available search criteria. Select the criteria that will identify data of interest (e.g., if specific geographic coverage is an important constraint to your data need, that would be one of the options you enter). It is usually better to begin a search with a minimum of criteria and then later use more as necessary. When using a combination of criteria (e.g., combining parameter keywords, sensors, sources, and temporal and spatial coverage), it is strongly recommended that you include discipline (space physics, Earth science, etc.) as one of your criteria. This inclusion may help focus the results of your search.

If temporal or spatial coverage or investigator is not critical to your research needs, you may want to use the multiple keyword option, which allows you to search all keyword fields (discipline, parameter, etc.) using several keywords. An AND or OR may be used in the query. There are no valid lists available with the multiple keyword search option; so searching with the discipline, parameter, and location keywords might be better if you are unfamiliar with the MD. It is usually better to specify a few simple keywords or even parts of words (e.g., MAG rather than MAGNETOMETER) rather than several compound keywords when using the word search option, which is not a full-text search system.

After entering the desired search keys, the keyword entry form will be displayed.

ENTER THE DESIRED VALUES

With smart terminals, your cursor will be positioned in the entry field; with line mode terminals, you will be prompted for the field value. Enter the value and press return. The cursor or prompt will then move to the next field. Entering a ? will give a list of valid values from which a choice may be made. Once all values are entered, the cursor or prompt will move to the COMMAND prompt. You can then enter SEARCH to start the search, or you can return to the fields to change a value by entering a period or by pressing return.

NOTE: The MD will return any values that match the characters entered. For example, if you enter NITR, values such as *nitrogen*, *nitrogen dioxide*, *nitric* acid, etc., will be considered to match the specified criteria.

Search Criteria Form

Lists of valid values are available for the following fields:

Discipline	Subdiscipline
Parameter group	Parameter
Sensor (instrument)	Source (e.g., spacecraft)
Location	Project

When entering values in these fields, the MD will automatically check to see if the value entered is valid. If it is not, a list of available values will be displayed, and you can select the number corresponding to the value of interest. If you do not want to select any of the values, enter EXIT to return to the entry form. Valids for some criteria (discipline and parameter keywords, and discipline and location keywords) are cross-validated so that only combinations for which data set descriptions exist are displayed. When these criteria are combined with others such as sensor, source, or space and time coverage,

however, the use of valid lists does not guarantee that data set descriptions matching the search criteria will be found in the MD.

ENTER "SEARCH" TO SELECT DATA SETS

Once you are satisfied with the criteria entered, move to the command line (either using carriage returns or a period) and enter SEARCH to retrieve data set information.

Multiple Keyword Form

If you choose to search using the multiple keyword option, you can enter up to four keywords of any type (e.g., sensor names, geophysical parameters, discipline keywords, spacecraft names). THERE ARE NO VALID LISTS AVAILABLE FROM THE MULTIPLE KEYWORD ENTRY FORM. The multiple word search defaults to searching for data sets with *any* of the keywords entered (a Boolean OR, e.g., Wind OR Nimbus OR Ocean). You can change the OR value to an AND if you want to search for data sets containing a specific combination of keywords (e.g., Temperature AND Cloud AND Aerosols).

Once you are satisfied with the criteria entered, move to the command line (either using carriage returns or a period) and enter SEARCH to retrieve data set information.

ENTER "SEARCH" TO SELECT DATA SETS

The system will search the data base for data set descriptions as soon as the search command is entered. A list of data set titles that match the keywords and/or criteria specified will be displayed. The total number of titles found will be displayed at the top of the screen. You can page through the titles by entering NEXT (or carriage returns); the current page and total number of pages will be displayed in the upper right-hand corner.

SELECT A TITLE OF INTEREST

After looking at the titles, enter the number that corresponds to a data set of interest. To modify your search, enter EXIT to return to the previous level.

PRESS RETURN TO PAGE THROUGH THE INFORMATION
OR ENTER DISPLAY FOR A MENU OF AVAILABLE DISPLAY SCREENS

After you select a title of interest, a brief description of the data set will be displayed. You can continue to enter carriage returns to page through the data set information. Available information is displayed in the following sections:

Brief Description
Data Set Attributes (keywords, coverage, spacecraft)
Archive Information
Data Set Personnel
Bibliographic References

You can use the DISPLAY command to display any of these sections or to see a menu of available screen display options. In some cases you can use the SUPPLEMENT command to display related data center or project information.

If the LINK command is displayed at the end of the command line, you can enter LINK to connect to the discipline directory, catalog, or inventory system to find out more information about the data set. When you log out of a remote system, you will be returned to the same screen from which you entered the LINK command.

To select a new title, enter EXIT or D Q (for DISPLAY QUERY_RESULTS).

4. SEARCHING FOR DATA CENTER/DATA SYSTEM DESCRIPTIONS

After you select the data center search option from the MD main menu, an entry form will be displayed. Enter the common name (acronym) for the data center or data information system of interest (e.g., NSSDC, NODS, PDS, PLDS). For a list of available descriptions, enter ? and then enter the number that corresponds to your choice.

After entering the data center or data system name, enter **SEARCH** to search for the information. Then select the desired option from the query results and page through the available information. Enter **DISPLAY** to view the available screen display options.

5. SEARCHING FOR CAMPAIGN/PROJECT DESCRIPTIONS

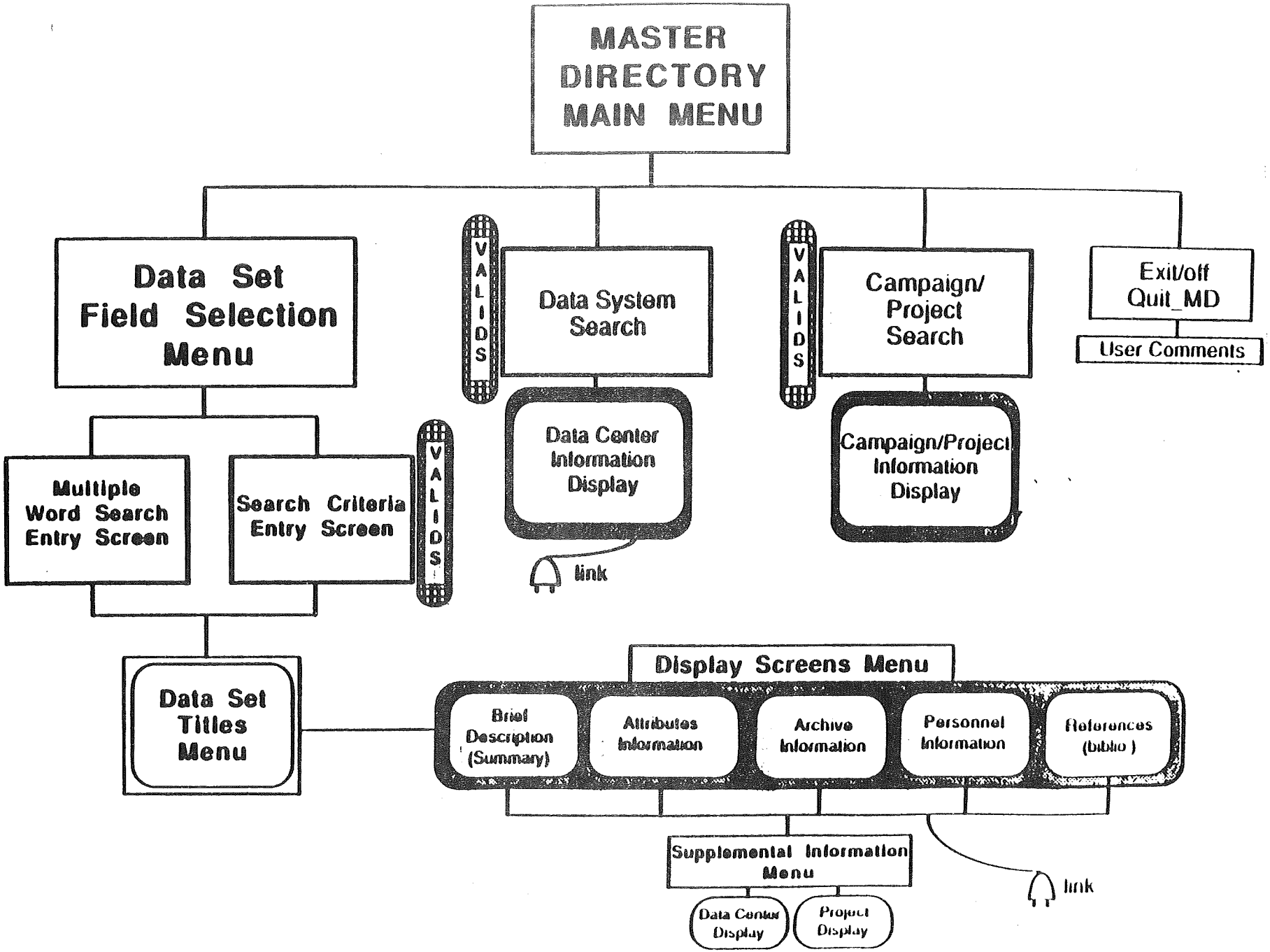
After you select the project information search option from the MD main menu, an entry form will be displayed. Enter the common name (acronym) for the scientific project of interest (e.g., ISCCP, FIFE). For a list of available project names, enter ? and then enter the number that corresponds to the project of choice.

After entering the project name, enter **SEARCH** to search for the project information. Then select the desired option from the query results and page through the available information. Enter **DISPLAY** to view the available display options.

6. EXIT THE MD

ENTER "QUIT_MD" WHEN YOU WANT TO LEAVE THE MD SYSTEM

After being prompted for any comments, you will be returned to the NSSDC menu. You can then select the logout option from the NSSDC main menu.


MASTER DIRECTORY MAIN MENU
Data Set Field Selection Menu
VALIDS
Data System Search
VALIDS
Campaign/ Project Search
Exit/off Quit_MD
User Comments
Multiple Word Search Entry Screen
Search Criteria Entry Screen
VALIDS
Data Center Information Display
Campaign/Project Information Display
link
Data Set Titles Menu
Display Screens Menu
Brief Description (Summary)
Attributes Information
Archive Information
Personnel Information
References (biblio)
Supplemental Information Menu
Data Center Display
Project Display
link

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