Documentary Data Sources in Portugal (17th-19th and 20th)

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Outline: uses of Documentary data sources: Portugal
- The descriptive information: The cultural and scientific context; the climate voice from the past: the kimhist information
- The use of data sources in the pre-instrumental period – different typologies
- The use of documentation/data sources in the instrumental period: social and cultural projections

Cultural and Scientific Institutions – natural perceptions

Events:
1755: Lisbon earthquake...
1772: Natural Philosophy Faculty and Mathematic Faculty at Coimbra University
Enlightenment context
The Academy of Sciences (1779)
The military engineer Marino Miguel Franzini
The Meteorological Geophysics Institute in the Lisbon Polytechnic Scholl (1854)

The pre-instrumental documentary data sources
- To get information: manuscript and printed sources
- Archives
- Libraries
  - Society gives information: social groups: cultural elites (those who managed the art/power of writing and the power of printing/editing; the importance circulation of the information in Portugal/Colonies and Europe.
  - Institutions: Town Hall; Catholic Church – bishops and ecclesiastic structures

The beginning; history, climate, reconstructions: ADVICE
- Annual to decadal variability of climate in Europe.
- Reconstruction concerning two periods:
  - Late Maunder Minimum (LLM) 1675-1715
  - Early Instrumental Period (EIP) (1780-1860)

Team: historians, geographers,
Data Sources: how to find? How to choose? How to use to database?

Correspondence

- Institutional (manuscripts)
  - Ecclesiastical (Minutes of the Chapter Edicts, Book of Memoirs and Records of the Cathedrals of Évora and Lisbon)
  - Correspondence Books (civil and ecclesiastic institutions)
  - Municipal (Minutes of Lisbon and Évora Town Halls)
  - “Misericórdias” (Books of Minutes)

- Individual: Diaries, Memoirs, some of them printed.
  - Almeida: Diary from 1696-1716
  - Silva: Information 1701-16
  - Castro: Information 1704-1709
  - Matozo (1st half of the 18th century)
  - Manuel do Cenáculo (1724-1814), Member of the Academy of Sciences of Lisbon
  - Two poems referring to December 1739 storm

- Letters or notes from travellers
  - Letters from P. António Vieira (1663-1665)

Printed sources

- Individual editions: poems, reflections, prognostics
- Periodical press: the gazettes cycles (Gazetas de Évora, from the manuscript to the critical editor, a 21st Modern History project
- The Voyages diaries and voyage literature (18th century)

Looking for events

- Meteorological events
- Extreme events
- The utility of a meteorological chronology
- The social and cultural meteorological memory: Portugal

Events and the KlimHist

- the voice of the past.... December 1739: Barbara Storm
- European winter storms
Sebastian ceremony (procissão S. Sebastião – Évora)

The usual organization of Sebastian ceremony (January)

– Changes in different years: streets are not decent enough. It’s necessary to postpone the ceremony which involves all the Évora and surroundings population.

19th century: the ceremony changes to May, but.... The streets are not decent, «because of the strong raining»

Pro-pluvia / pro-serenitatem ceremonies

• The catholic world has the use to pray God for rain or to stop extreme raining

• The ecclesiastic and civil production of official documentation (edictal, rules...) : easy to get precious information about these events, organise and sponsored by the power of the society

• The social patronage to the pluvia ceremonies

Crossing documentary data sources with instrumental data sources

• To look for meteorological memory

• Visions / perceptions of the «climate»

• Social and economic impacts
  – Public sphere (journals and newspapers)
  – Official documentation : Ecclesiastic archives / Town Hall documentation, State Central documentation (parliamentary debates, legislation and so on)

Marino Miguel Franzini (1779-1861)

• Major of the Royal Corporation of the Engineers, Liberal Deputy and Finance Minister

• Two series of monthly data were compiled 1815-1825 and 1836-1854 (not statistically different)

• Dec. 1815- dec 1817: issued in the Memórias of the Portuguese Science Academy, from 1818 onwards, data was published in weekly and monthly press
A network of data sources information
(Lígia work: a scholarship Klimhist)

Working in progress now (October 2012) (excell and database framework)

Looking for information - for the period pré-Institute of Meteorology (1854)

How the documentation produces narratives about extreme events, of «good climate», «good weather»

- Different perceptions of these emotions - individual and collective - sentences about the climate, in history.

The utility of the historians in this interdisciplinary projet: Klimhist