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## Outline – Milestones in NASA Data “Openness”

- Beginning of the Space Age and the desire to open the data to others
- NASA establishes an Archive – National Space Science Data Center
- Enabling Technologies
  - NASA's Internet
  - Online data archives
- Active Archives defined and implemented
- World-Wide-Web
- Open Data Leads to successful new approaches (i.e. Citizen Science)

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## NASA Mission Data Foundation

- January 1958 Explorer-1 launched
- Newell (HQ science lead) - White Paper, **June 17, 1960** - Missions will be defined by NASA and the Science Community
- Centers were viewed as extensions of NASA Headquarters and are given assignments
  - No call for proposals, the early explorer series of spacecraft were assigned to GSFC
  - These were largely “radiation belt monitors” as a follow up of Explorer-1
- GSFC to HQ ~**1961**- Proposal for the IMP series (in support of Apollo) accepted by Headquarters which evolved into a series of about 10 explorer class missions
  - To GSFC, the IMPs were a natural extension of their early explorer missions series
  - IMPs designed to monitor the environment from the Earth to Moon
- NASA data was *only* held by the investigators

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## NASA Data Becomes “Open”

- Newell (HQ science lead) to Silverstein (HQ Spaceflight lead)

MEMORANDUM To Dr. Silverstein

15 Aug 60

SUBJECT: **Policy on Release of Reduced Data** Acquired from Experiments Carried on NASA Sounding Rockets, Satellites and Space Probes

1. The Space Sciences Steering Committee has considered the subject of the release of reduced data acquired in experiments flown on NASA sounding rockets, satellites, and space probes. The policy which it approved on 9 August and recommended for approval as a NASA policy is attached for your consideration.

2. The Space Sciences Steering Committee in its consideration of a policy kept two points in mind. The first was to give the individual scientific experimenter maximum freedom in the use of data that he obtained from his own experiments. The second was to avoid loss of data by an experimenter's inability to release them in the technical literature, and to specify the conditions under which NASA itself would release the data in advance of any actual case.

3. **The policy recommended is practical, and it is simple administratively. It agrees with traditional scientific practice in giving the experimenter the right to his own data, but it does set up provisions for NASA to recover data that might otherwise be lost and for NASA to release the data for general use after the experimenter has finished with them himself.**

Homer E. Newell  
Deputy Director  
Space Flight Programs

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POLICY FOR RELEASE OF DATA ACQUIRED ON NASA SOUNDING ROCKETS,  
SATELLITES AND SPACE PROBES

Background

An important goal of the NASA is the encouragement of the widest possible participation in the space sciences program. ... In assigning the use of its facilities for space research the NASA endeavors to choose the best experiments and experimenters available.... This paper defines the procedures which NASA will follow ...regarding the publication of experimental data obtained in NASA sounding rockets, satellites, space probes or other spacecraft operations.

Basis of Policy

... In the usual case, an agreement that will assign the responsibility for the analysis and publication of the data to the scientist will exist between the NASA and the scientist. In the period before the publication of the results of the experiment it may happen that another scientist may wish to have **access to the experimental data in its preliminary form**. This is generally arranged informally **by a request made directly to the experimenter**. Occasions may arise when it will be necessary for NASA to release the results of experimental investigations made under its sponsorship, without waiting for publication by the cognizant scientist. It is expected that this will happen only when the responsible scientist is unable to meet his commitments within a reasonable time.

**In many instances the data acquired from space vehicles, like the observations made in astronomy, will have cumulative value. Whenever this is the case, it is desirable that such data be made available for the general use of the scientific community.** The original data received from a satellite or space probe is meaningless until the various channels are separated or demultiplexed, the calibration of the instrumentation is introduced, and the data put in chronological order. Provisions for these operations must be included in the arrangements made for supporting the applicable experiments.

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Policy

**The original data recordings received from a satellite or probe will be stored at the cognizant NASA center.** Secondary records containing reduced data will be prepared under the cognizance of the responsible NASA center. On occasion this operation may take place at contractor's or experimenter's establishments. In the secondary records all extraneous material and all confusion of data will be fully removed possible. **The records will be prepared by the NASA activity or contractor with the cooperation of the experimenter to satisfy the experimenter's and NASA's needs for reduced data.**

The experimenter will be given whatever original or reduced data from his experiment that his agreement with NASA calls for as soon as possible after they are received. The cognizant NASA center will retain copies of the reduced data furnished the experimenter. **The experimenter will have sole use of the reduced data for study for a period previously decided upon between him and the cognizant research center, with the approval of Headquarters.**

**No fixed time is set for the period of exclusive use of reduced data by the experimenter.** Each case will be considered individually, and no general rule is established.

If, during the period in which the experimenter has not reported the results of his experiment, information on the progress of the experiment or portions of the reduced data are requested by another scientist for designing space science experiments, or for the preparation of a technical paper, **informal arrangements for the release of the needed data should be made by the experimenter concerned.** Both the cognizant NASA center and the NASA Headquarters should be informed of these arrangements.

**At the end of the agreed upon period, during which the experimenter will have the opportunity to analyze and report on the reduced data, the reduced data may be released for general use** if such a course seems best for developing the space sciences. An extension of the period of sole use requested by the experimenter will require the approval of Headquarters.

All releases of the reduced data by the NASA centers to other than the original experimenter must be approved by Headquarters.

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Definition of Terms  
Used in the Policy Statement

Original data records

Those records made by the various **telemetering** and/or tracking stations as part of the basic field operations. Those recordings will generally require editing for the removal of useless segments, playback to introduce calibration factors, correlation with related recordings and the application of specialized processing techniques to recover weak signals from noisy recordings.

Reduced data records

Those records prepared from the original data records by editing, introduction of calibration factors and inter-record correlations. These will contain a minimum of extraneous information and/or noise and will generally present the value of the **physical quantity** measured as a function of time and position. It is from these records, or the tabulations or graphs prepared directly therefrom that the responsible scientist will form his analysis and conclusions.

Analyzed data

Those data which have been reviewed and correlated by either the original experimenter or another scientist to form the experimental basis for a technical paper **submitted for publication** to either NASA or a scientific journal.

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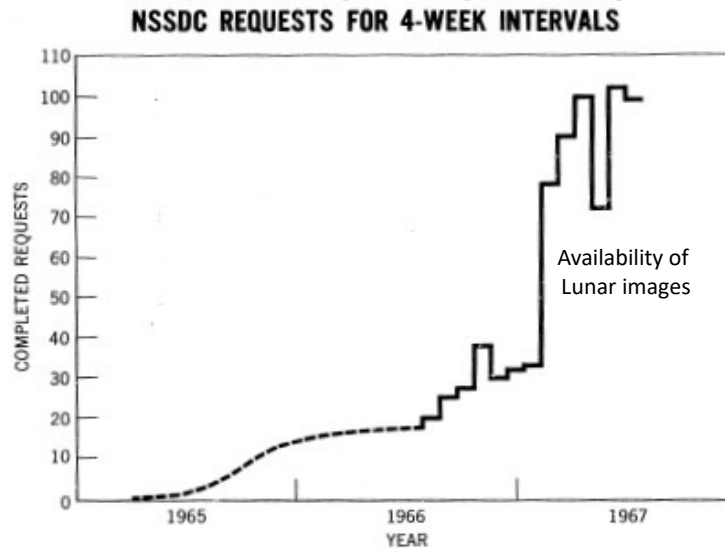
## Establishing the NSSDC

- In 1966 Newell establishes the National Space Science Data Center at the Goddard Space Flight Center
- NSSDC to enable US investigators to archive their “reduced” data at a central location providing a mechanism to help the investigators distribute their data to only US scientists upon request
  - PIs would provide NSSDC with microfilm, photographic images, and data on digital tapes (256, 800, and “high density” 1600 bits per inch)
- In Sept 1968 Truvelo (Chair of NAS Geophysical Research Board) requests that NAS transfer its designation as a World Data Center to NASA
- Newell assigned that role to the NSSDC
  - Officially making NSSDC held data available to foreign scientists upon request

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## Operation of the National Space Science Data Center - 1967



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## Volume of Data at National Space Science Data Center - 1967

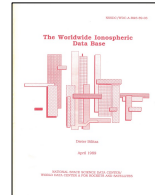
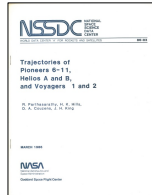
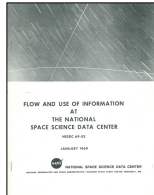
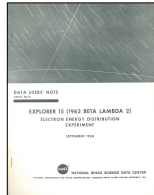
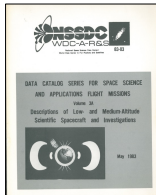
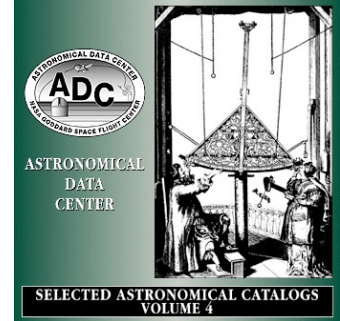
Present (August 1967) and Projected, Annually (January 1970)

MEDIUM	ON HAND	INCOMING
SHEETS AND BOUND VOLUMES, SHEETS	175,000	100,000
ROLL CHARTS, LINEAR FEET	360,000	150,000
DIGITAL MAGNETIC TAPES, 1/2"x2400'	291	10,000
ANALOG MAGNETIC TAPES, 1/2"x2400'	1,035	0
MICROFILM, 100-FT ROLLS	7,800	2,000
PHOTOGRAPHIC FILMS:		
9-1/2" WIDTH, LINEAR FEET	14,000	4,000
70-mm WIDTH, LINEAR FEET	33,200	12,000
4- x 5-INCH, EACH	2,100	1,000
16- x 20-INCH, EACH	93	--
20- x 24-INCH, EACH	2,200	800
PHOTOGRAPHIC PRINTS:		
8- x 10-INCH	600	500
11- x 14-INCH	200	300
16- x 20-INCH	93	--
20- x 24-INCH	2,200	800

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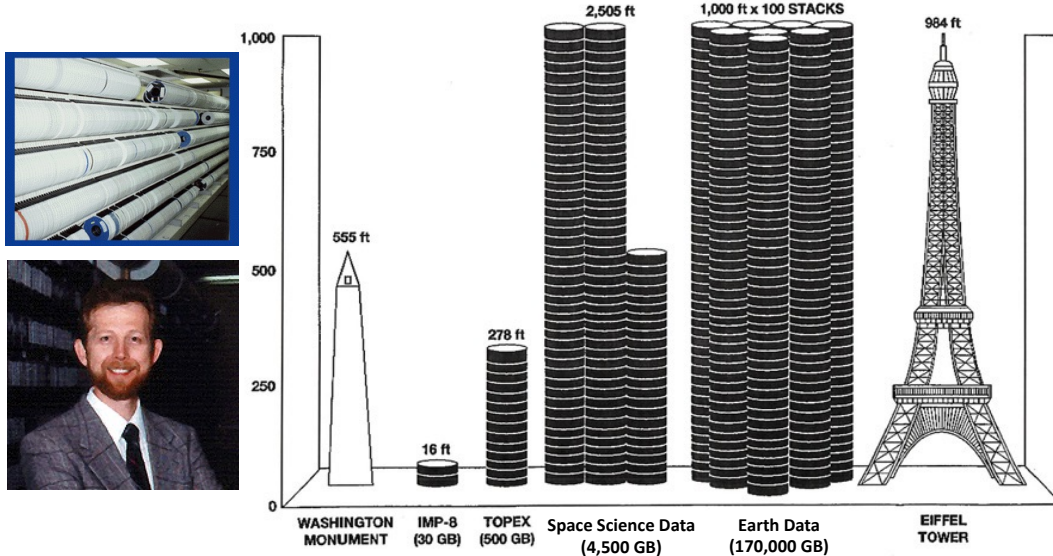
## Early Responsibilities of NSSDC

- Archiving satellite data
- Maintaining sounding rocket database
- SPACEWARN bulletin – announcement of all rocket launches
- Assigning international spacecraft IDs
- Publication of data catalogs and supporting documentation
- Safeguarding magnetic tape, microform, and hardcopy media
- Developing and promoting data standards
- Make data available to scientists and the general public

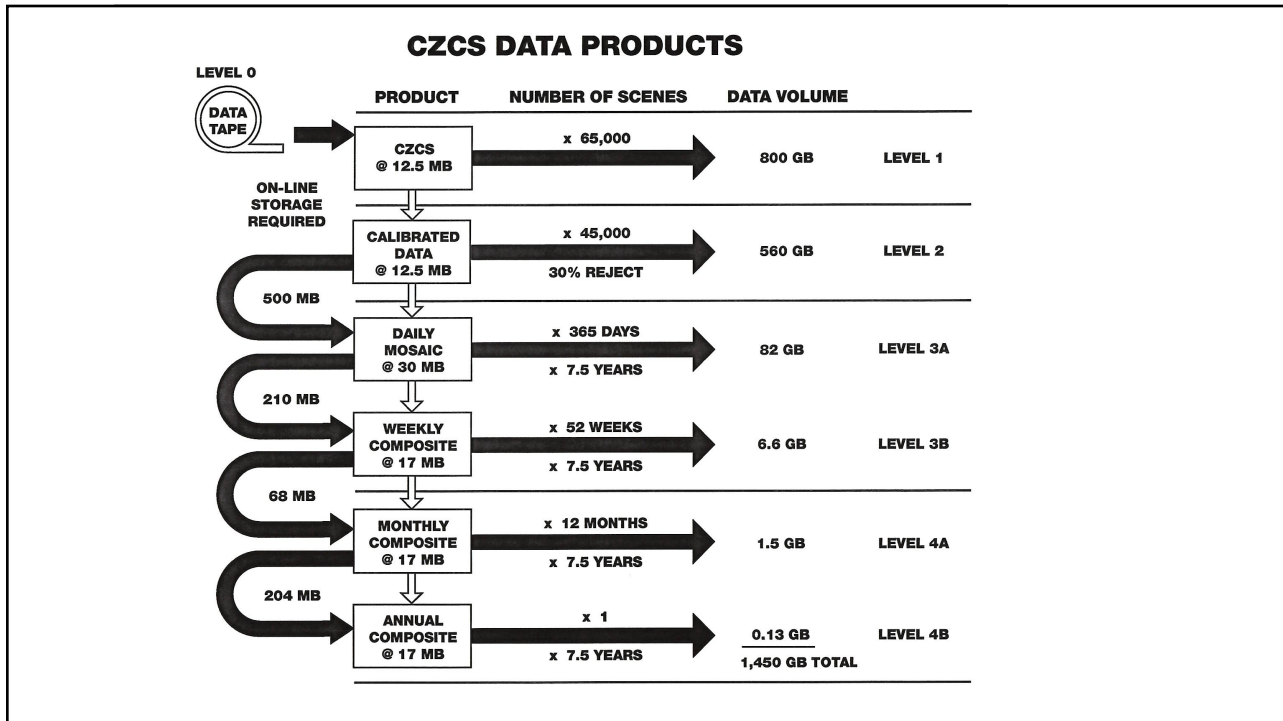


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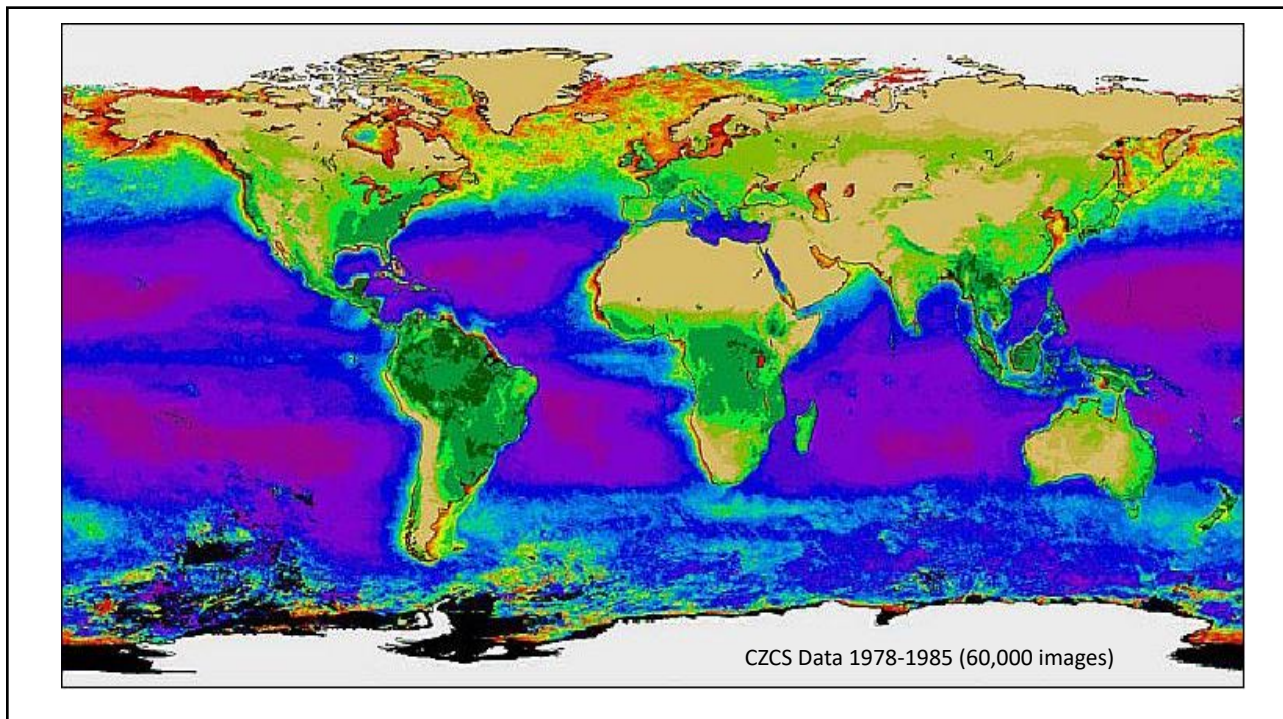
## DATA VOLUMES IN MAGNETIC TAPES/YEAR



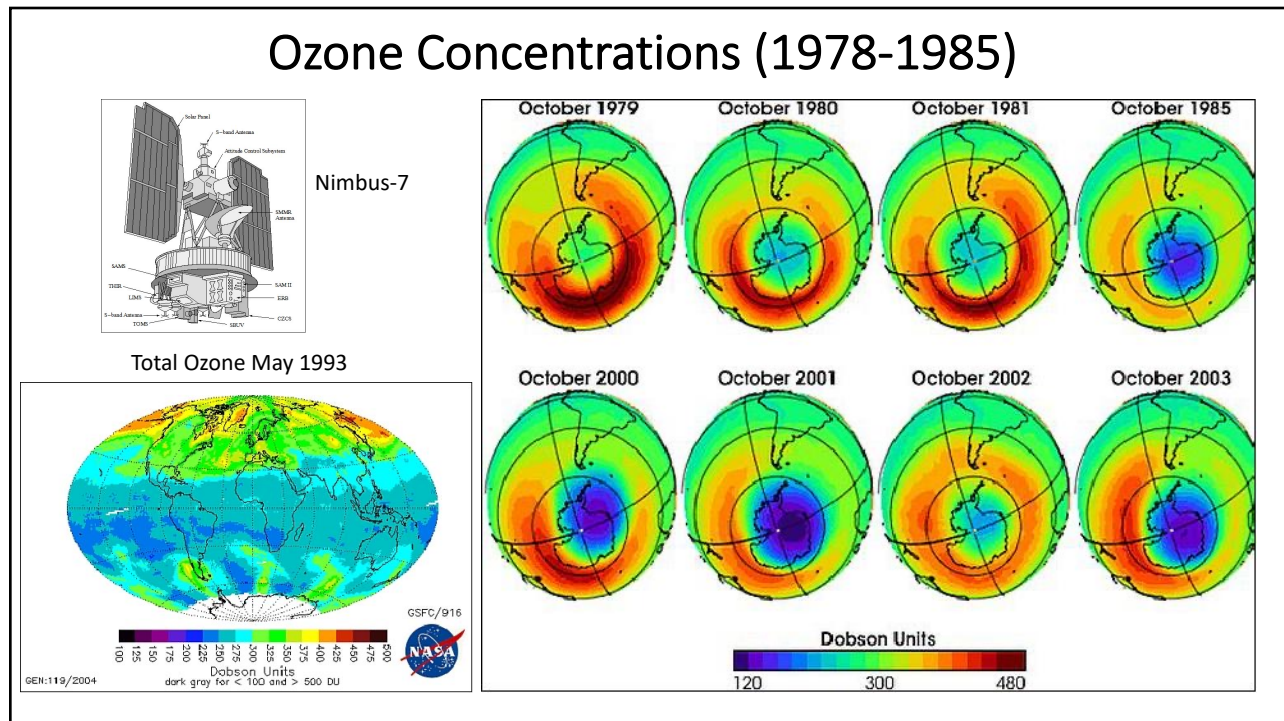
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## Computer Networking

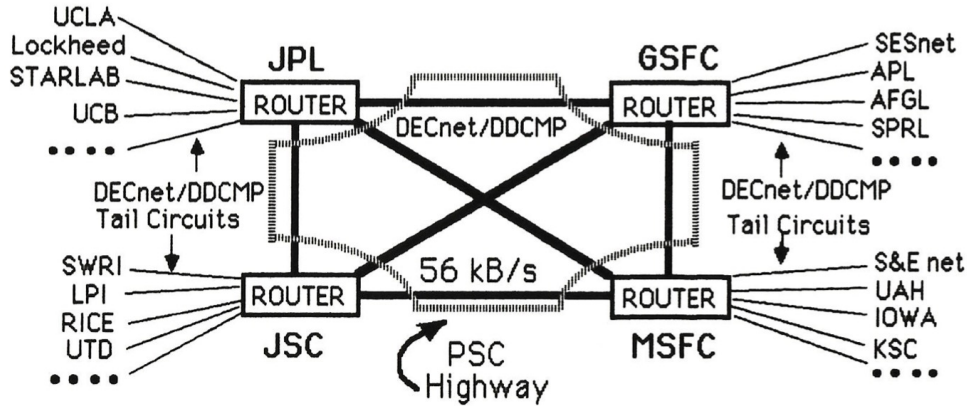
Without good “open” science networks, rapid access to space-derived data and information would be impossible

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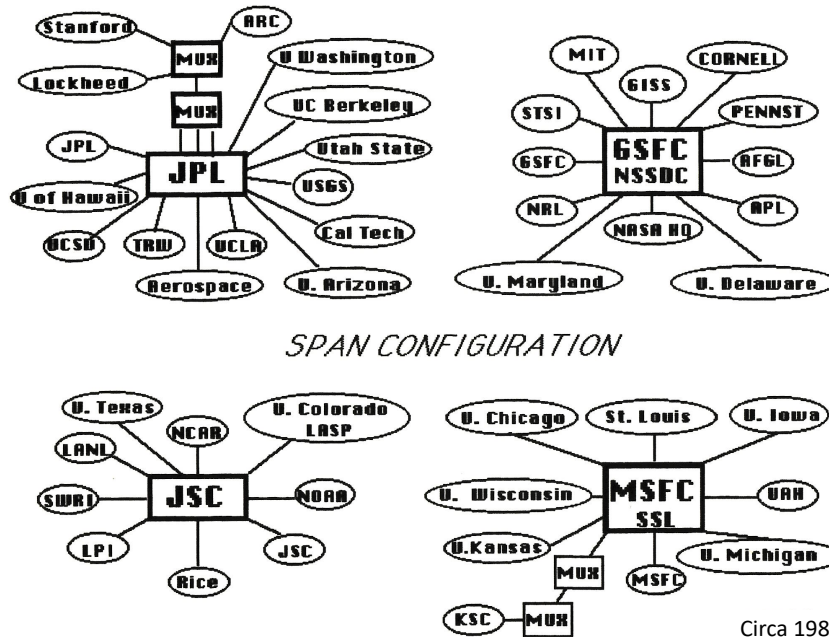
# Space Physics Analysis Network (SPAN)

SPAN started in 1980 at MSFC



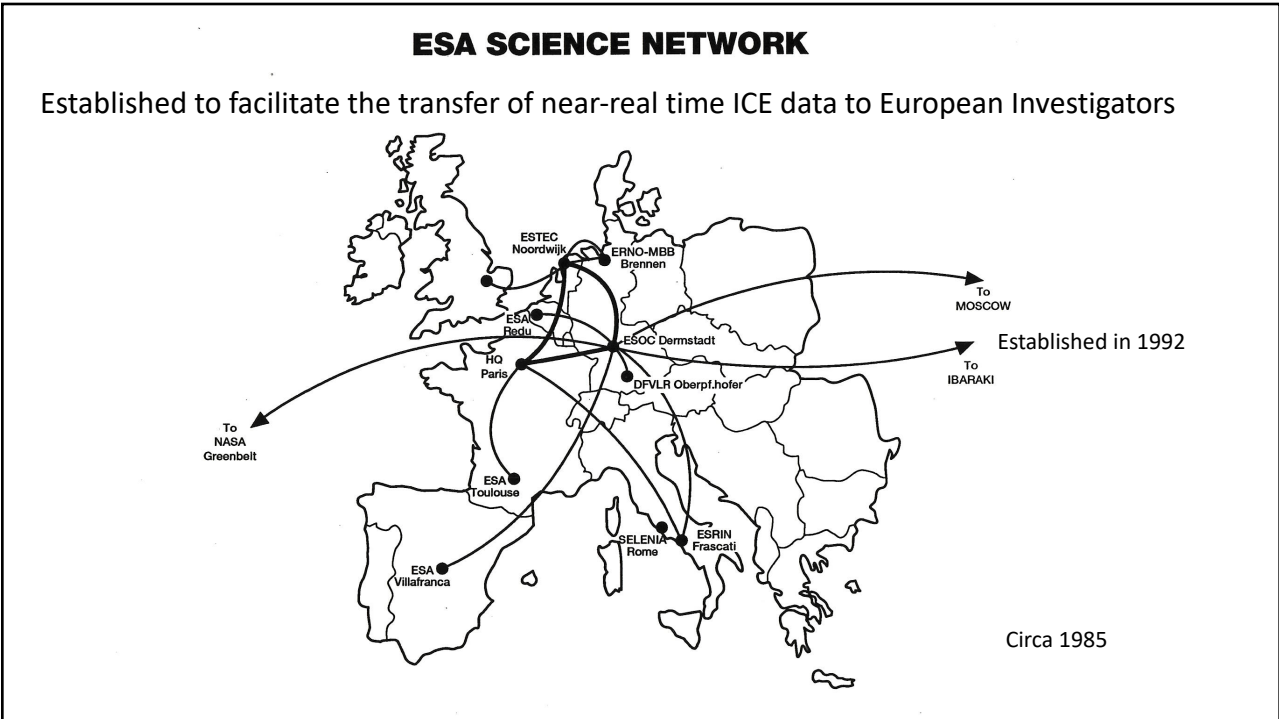
Circa 1985

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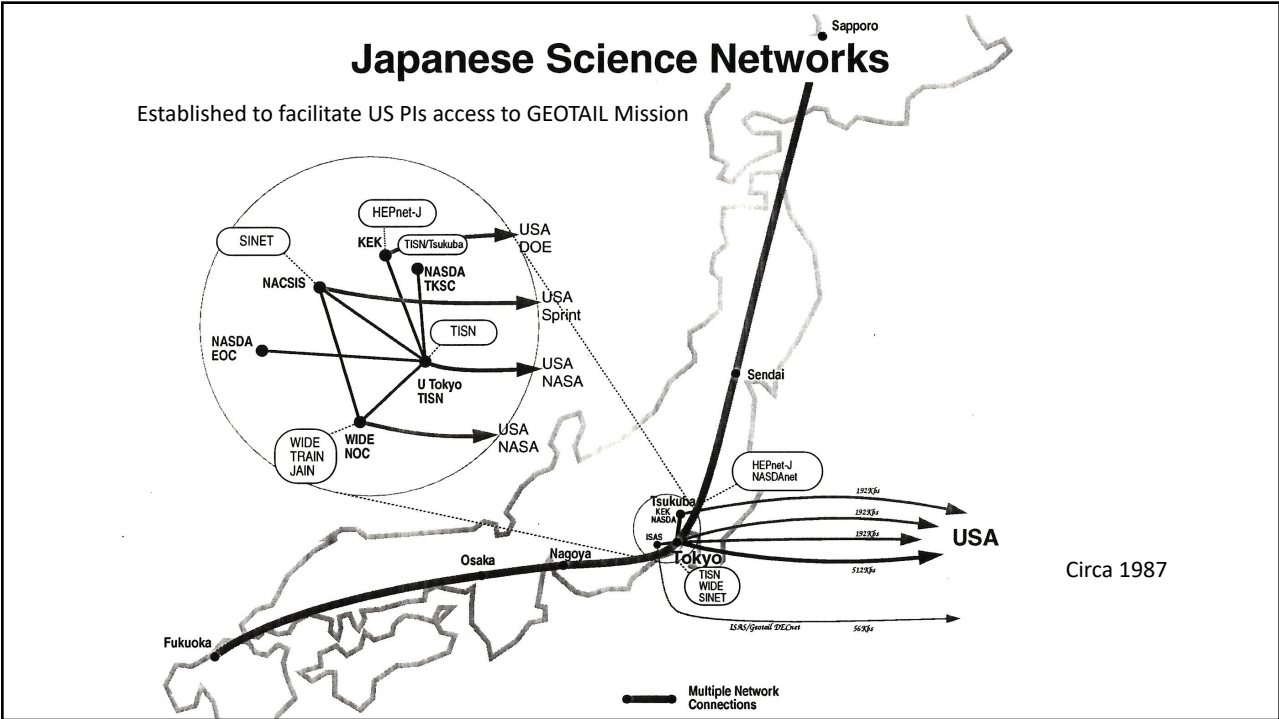


Circa 1985

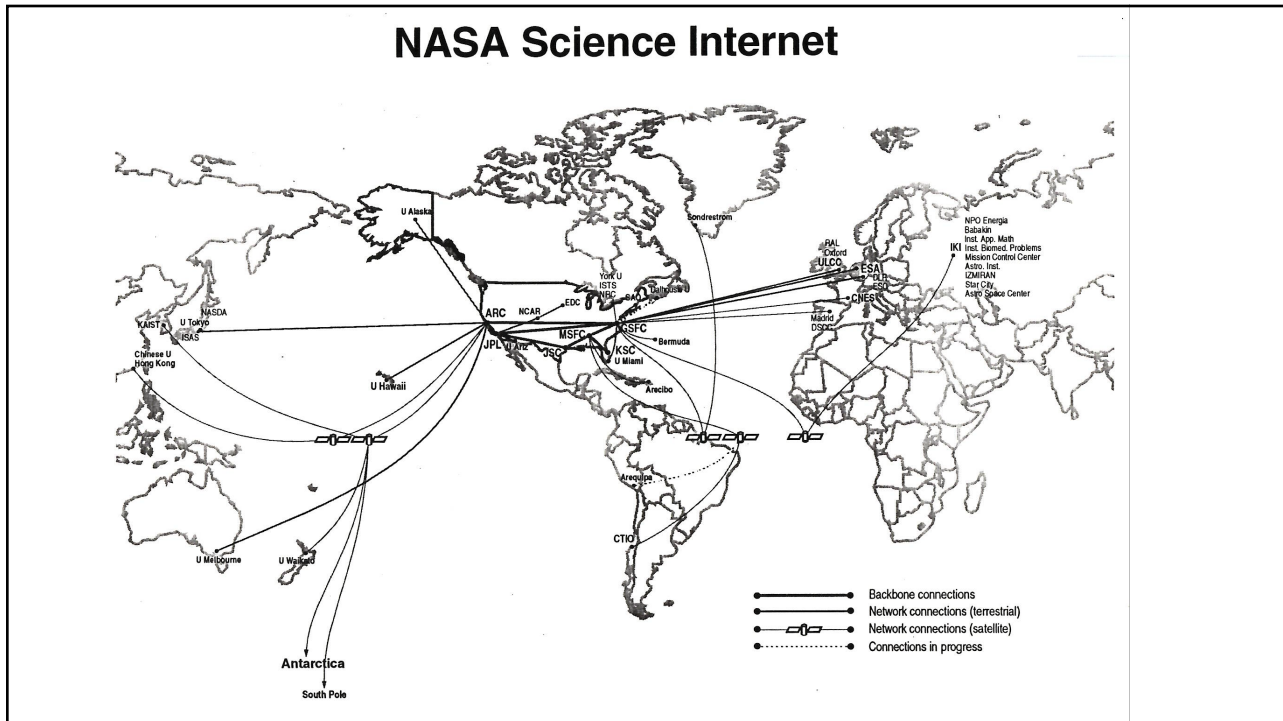
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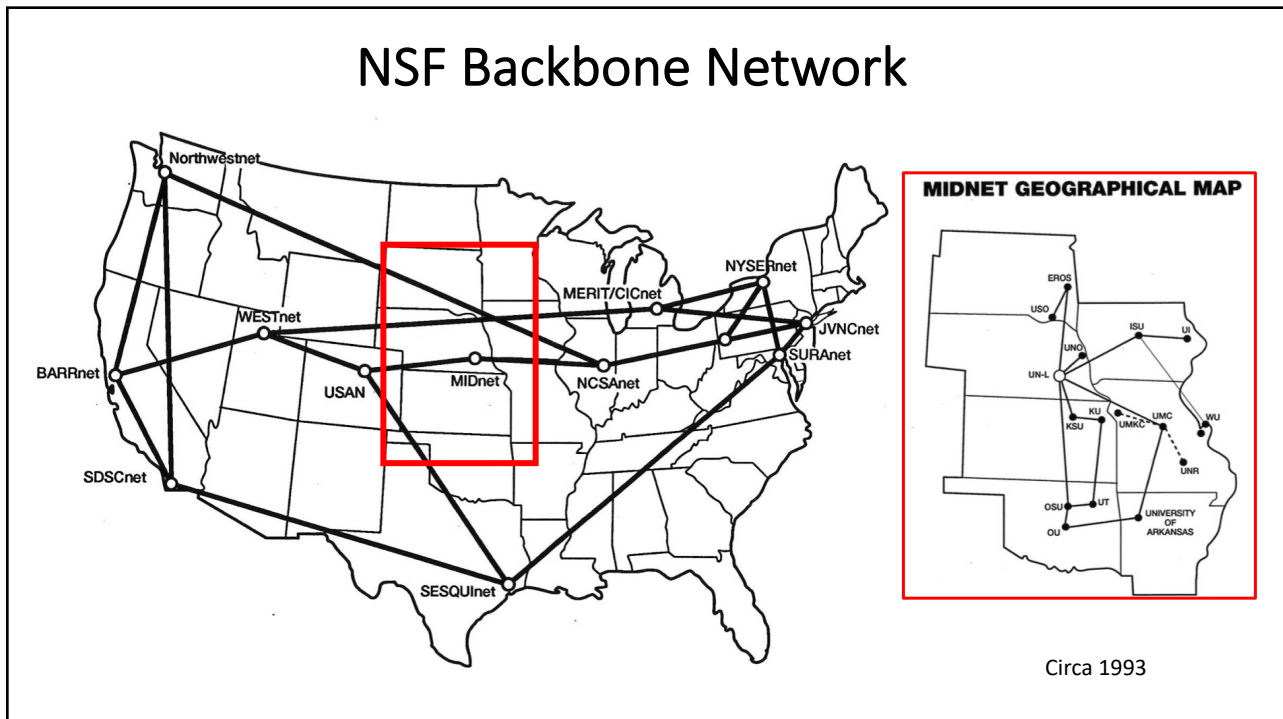
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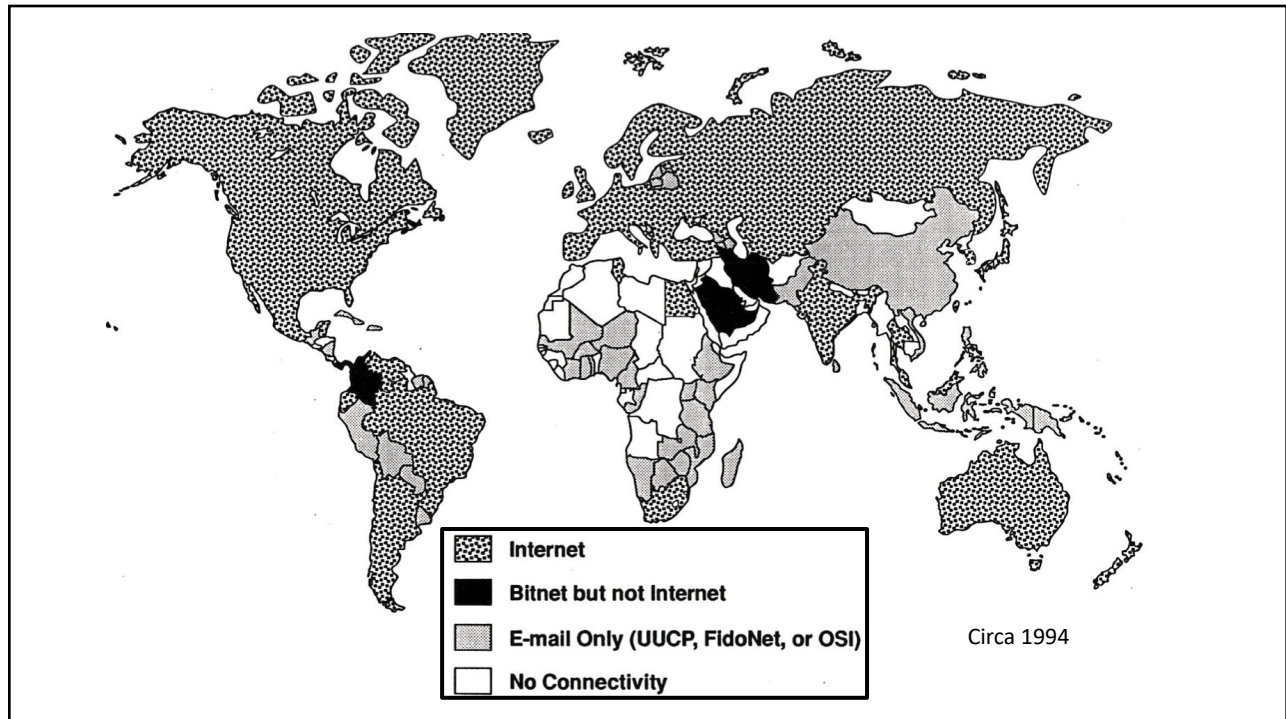
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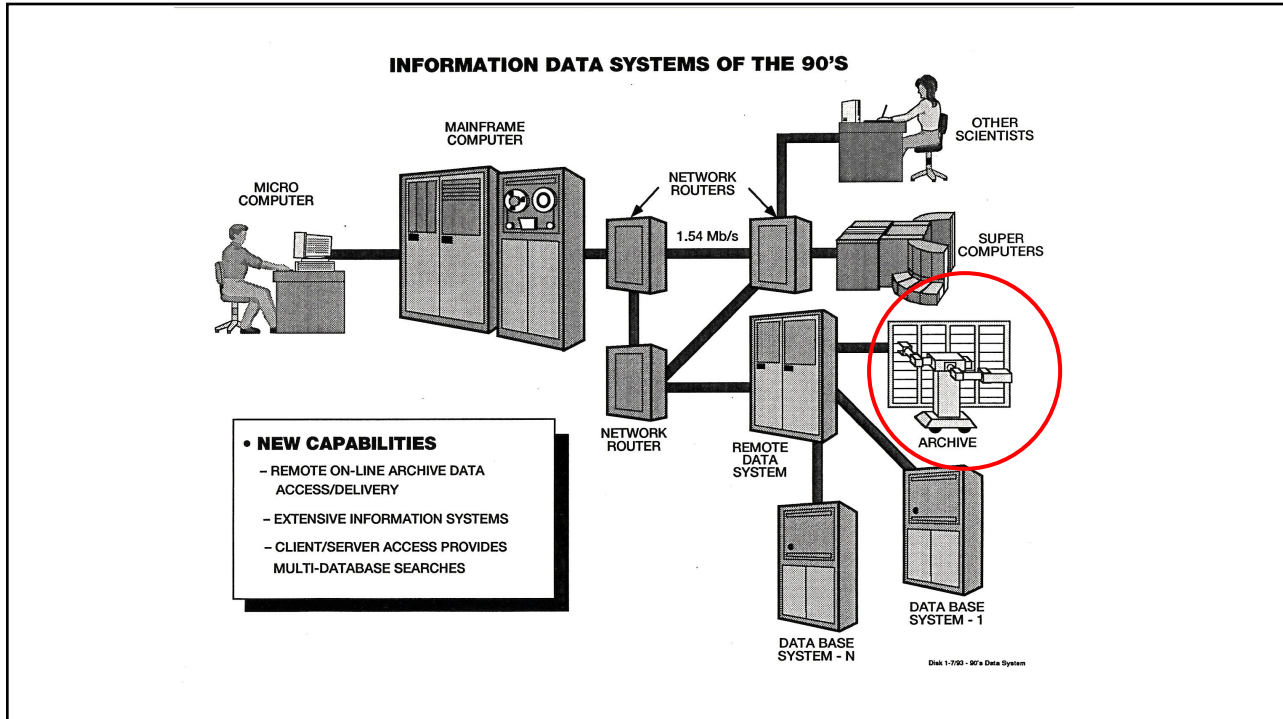


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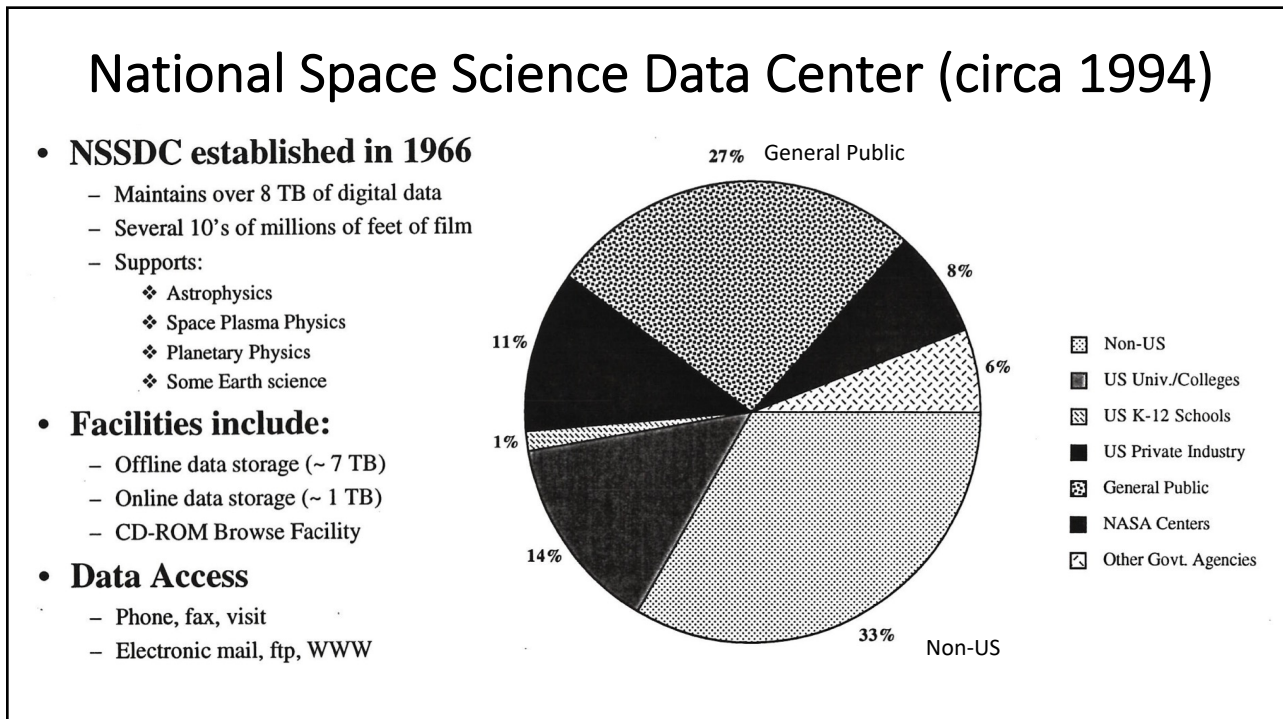
# Online Data Systems to Distributed Active Archives

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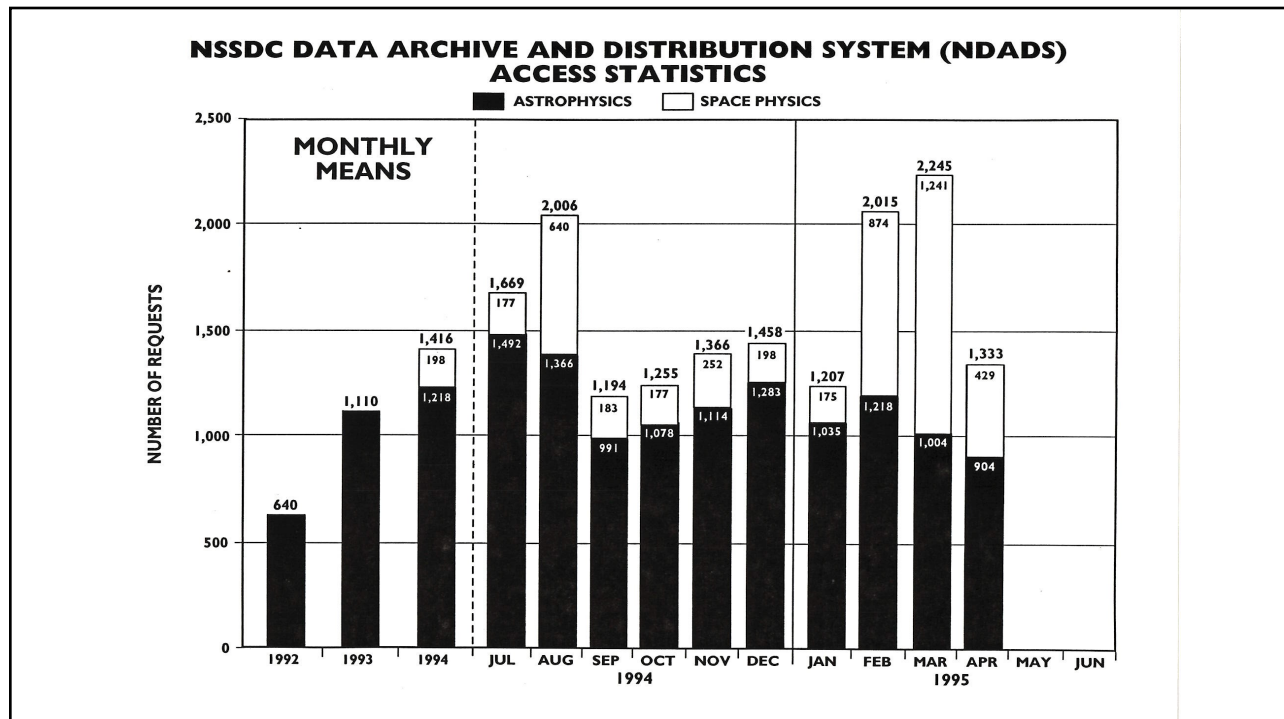




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## Early Review of NASA Data Archiving And Access

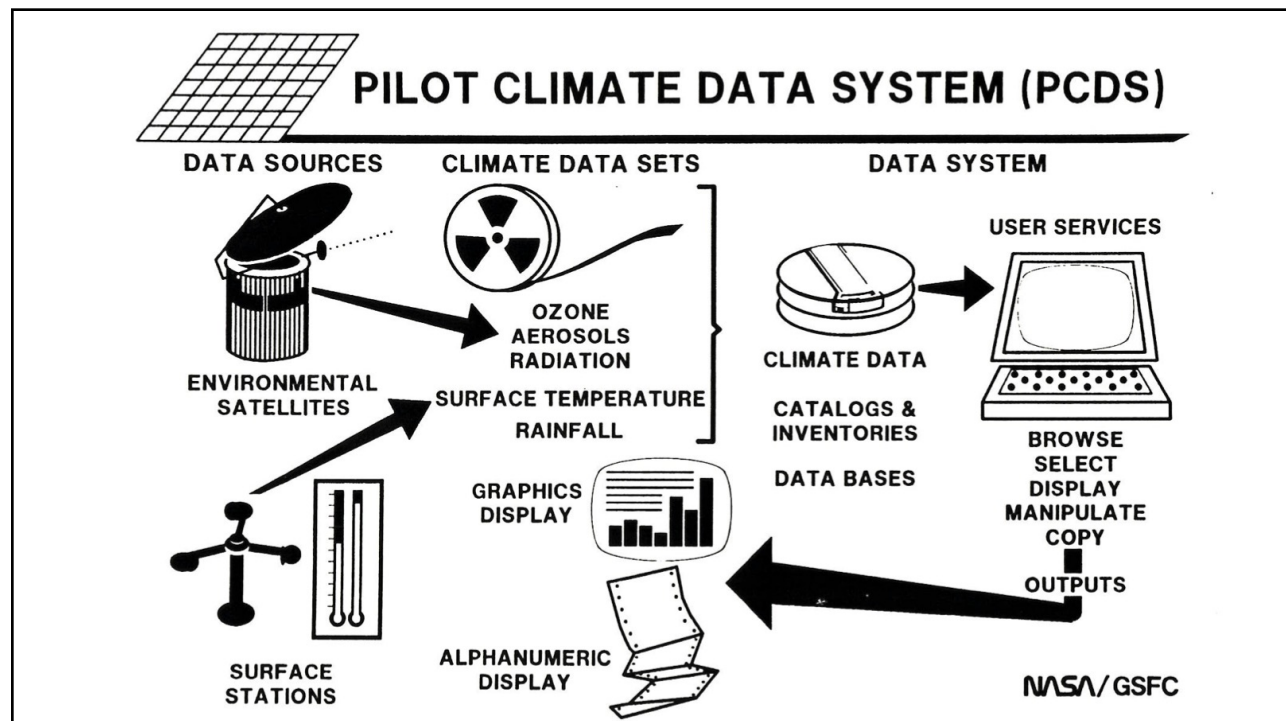
- Archiving in the 1960s and 1970s focused on depositing data sets and documentation into the NSSDC
- National Research Council's Space Science Board initiated a Committee on Computation and Data Management (CODMAC) in 1982
  - Determine the state of archiving and make recommendations for improvement
- Key CODMAC recommendations:
  - The most useful archives are those managed by scientists who use the data
  - Distributed archives situated at data scientist's institutions should maximize the ability to make new discoveries

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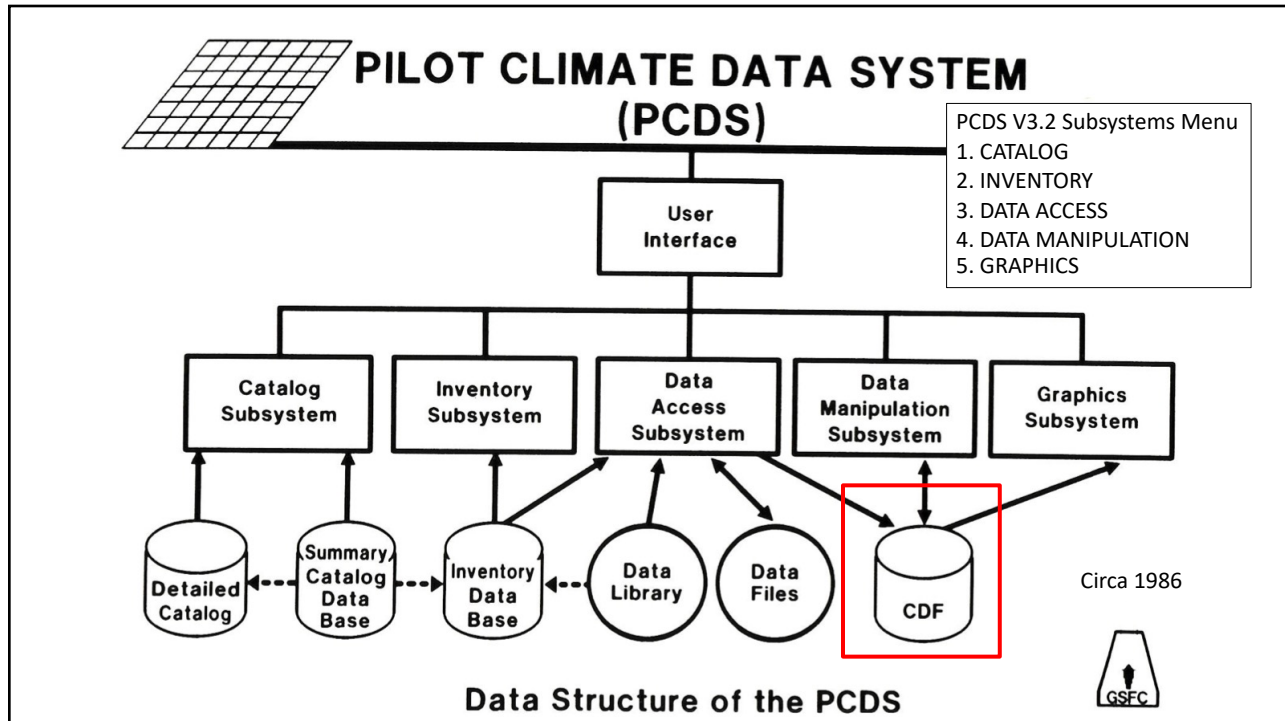
## Evolution of NASA Data Systems

- The Astronomical Data Center (1977)
  - NSSDC, GSFC Lab for Astronomy & Solar Physics, Centre de Donnees Stellairs
- Crustal Dynamics Data Information System (1981 - 1994) – transferred to EOSDIS
- Pilot Climate Data System (1983 - 1994) – transferred to EOSDIS
- Pilot Land Data System (1984- 1994) – transferred to EOSDIS
- NASA Ocean Data System (1987-1994) – transferred to EOSDIS
- Planetary Data System (1988)
- Astrophysics Data System (1989)
- Space Physics Data Facility (1990)
- Earth Observing System Data and Information System (1990)

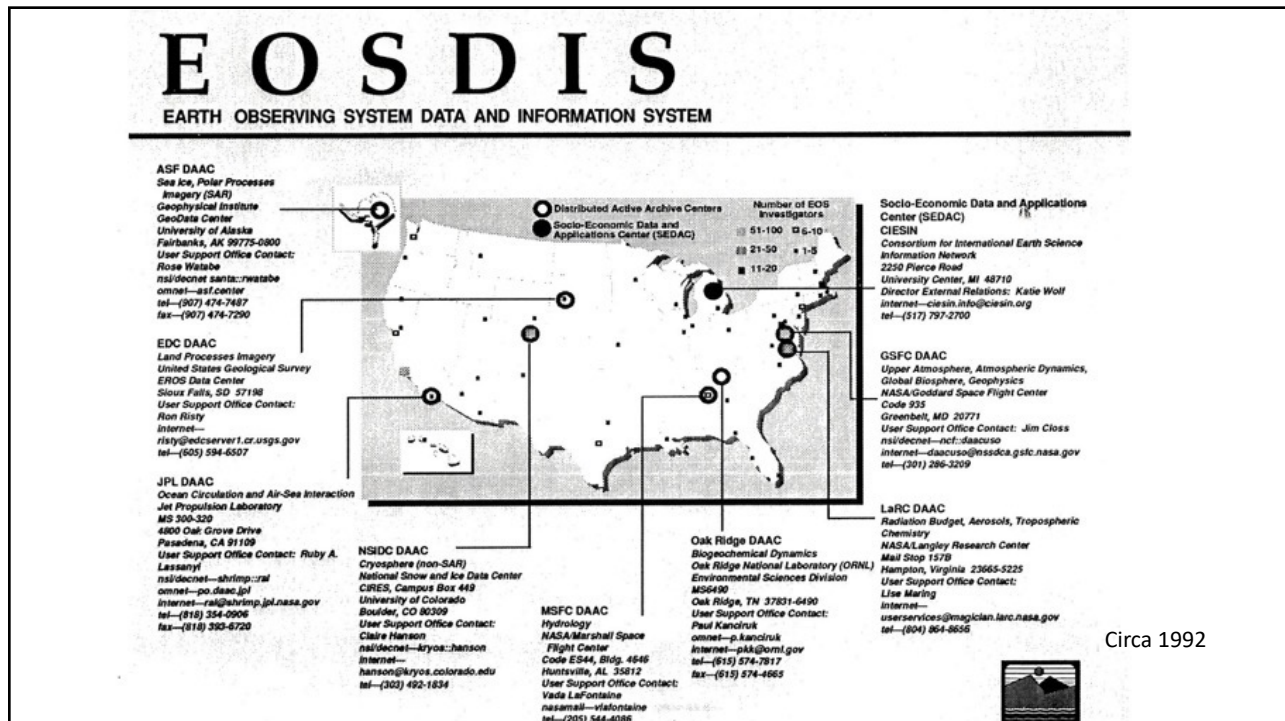
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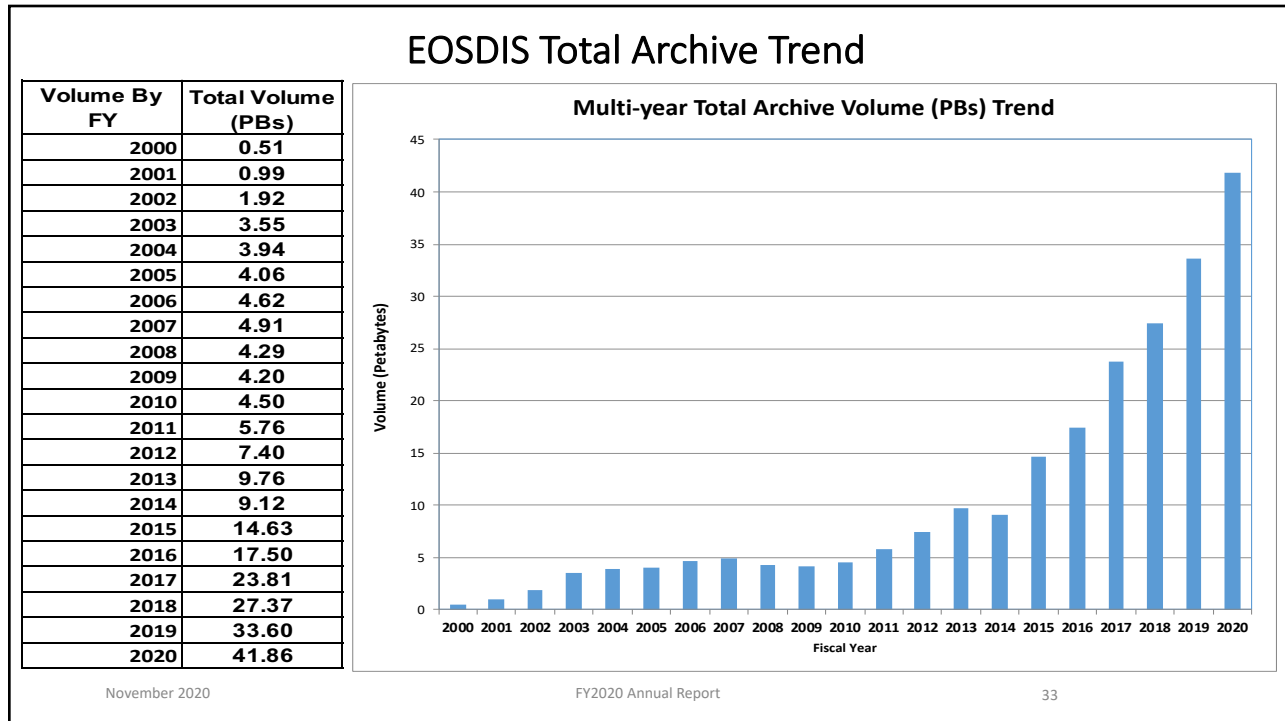


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NASA Office of Space Science and Applications

**INFORMATION SYSTEMS**

**Newsletter**

The purpose of the INFORMATION SYSTEMS Newsletter is to inform the space science and applications research and science community about information systems development and to promote coordination and collaboration by providing a forum for communication. The newsletter focuses on programs sponsored by the Information Systems Office.

As a result, NASA has established several Discipline Data Centers (DDCs) distributed throughout many science disciplines, and one of those is the PDS. The DDC's aid the NSSDC in providing ready access to data within the science disciplines.

The movement towards DDCs and the distributed data environment is resulting in the evolution of NSSDC's role. The concept for NASA's space data is that NSSDC retains central pg 2

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**NSSDC NEWS**

NATIONAL SPACE SCIENCE DATA CENTER

Published Quarterly by NSSDC Vol. 3, No. 1, March 1987

**NSSDC and Planetary Data System Sign Memorandum of Understanding**

A Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) NSSDC is recognized as the lead center in planetary data, a catalog of such data and

“This [PDS] is one of the several Discipline Data Systems that have been developed to conduct original research and to augment the ability of the National Space Science Data Center (NSSDC) to manage, archive, and distribute data obtained from NASA missions. “

*The overarching goal of the PDS is to promote and enhance research through analysis of planetary data.”*

(NASA HQ, Jim Green (NSSDC), Tom Runkow (JPL), Tom Duxbury (JPL), Rob Avardson (Washington University), and Ed Dornheim (Colorado Institute of Technology)) Joseph H. King

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# The Planetary Data System

*The PDS acquires, preserves, and distributes the large volume of unique and valuable data returned by Solar System Exploration missions*

**Key PDS Products and Services:**

- High quality **peer-reviewed** data archives
- Data **distribution** to planetary community
- **Archiving expertise** to planetary missions
- **Scientific expertise** and support for users
- Create value-added **aggregated data products**
- Education and outreach data products and services



NSSDC would maintain a backup role to PDS

<http://pds.jpl.nasa.gov>



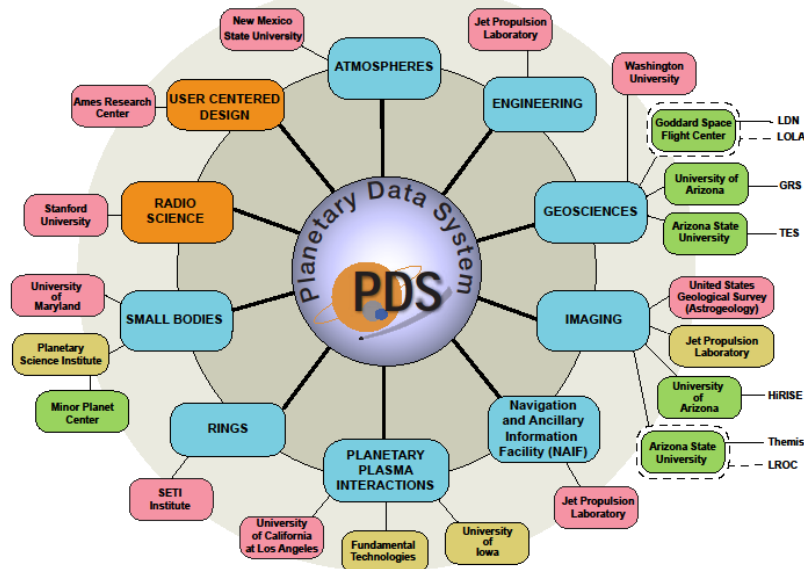
*Node structure provides focus on key disciplines*

Circa 1991

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## NODES/SUBNODES/DATA NODES

Function / Node Home Institution



Circa 2014

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# World Wide Web

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**1993** National Aeronautics and Space Administration  
**Space Science Data Operations Office**

**1994** National Aeronautics and Space Administration

**1995** National Aeronautics and Space Administration

**1996-97** National Aeronautics and Space Administration

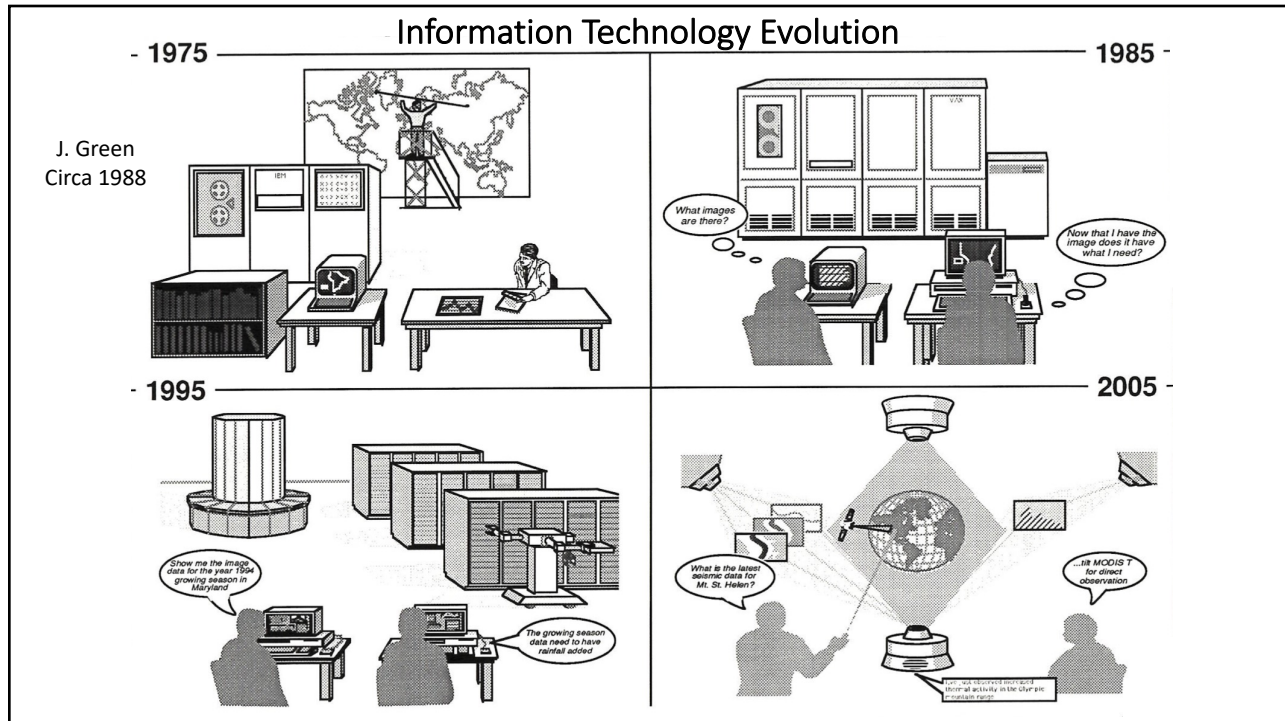
**Jim Gass's work on the evolution of the NASA web was commended by the Administrator.**

**NASA Public Affairs given The responsibility to manage WWW access to the public**

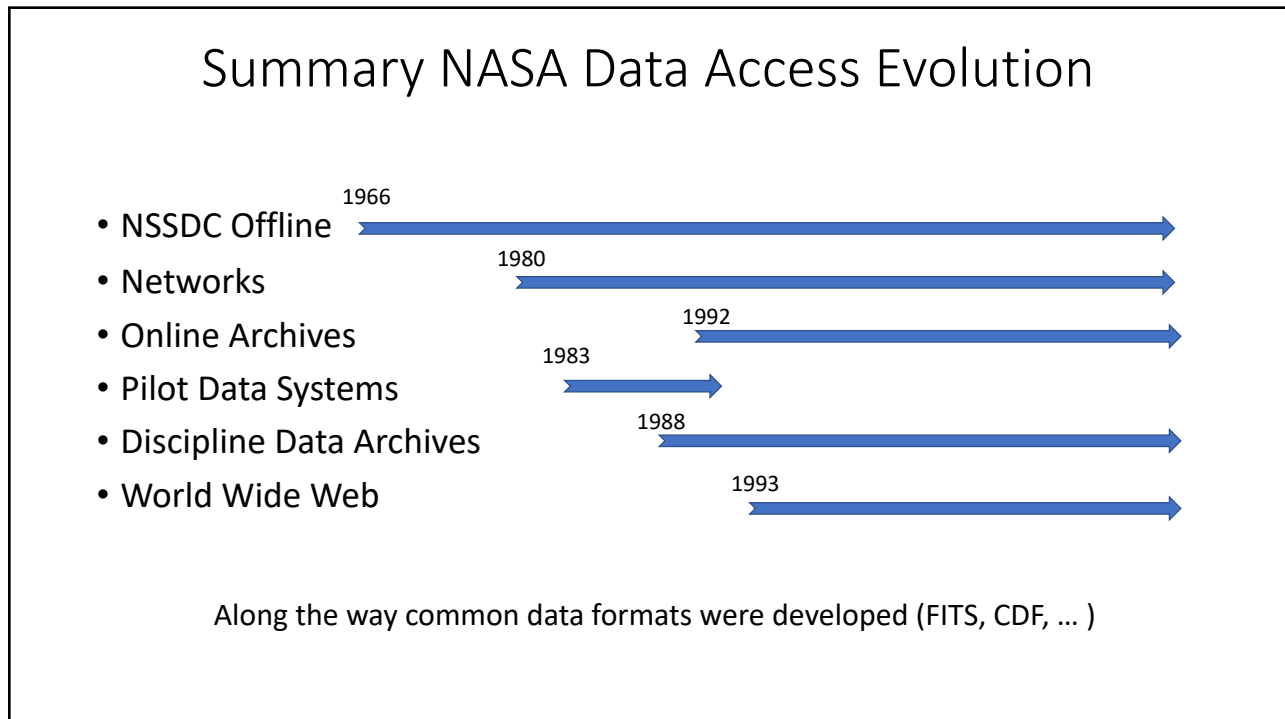
Dear Mr. Gass:  
 I want to thank you for all of the work you have done in creating and maintaining NASA's cutting-edge presence on the Internet. You were one of the first people at NASA to recognize the internet's capability for communication to our many audiences. You helped lay the groundwork for satisfying the extraordinary demand for online information about the discovery of possible forests on Mars and the exploits of the Sojourner rover.  
 Now that the NASA Home Page has been moved to a new server with a higher capacity network connection, it will be even more readily available to the growing Internet community. Reaction over the last 2 years has shown that NASA's Web sites have quickly become one of the Agency's most effective ways of reaching the public and inspiring students.  
 Although you will no longer be directly involved with the NASA Home Page, you can take pride in its continued success. Congratulations.

Sincerely,  
*David M. Johnson*  
 David M. Johnson  
 Administrator

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## Citizen Science

- 26 active projects and engage over 1.5 million volunteers. From studies of our planet's biodiversity to exploring the sun, comets, and planets outside of our solar system.
- 22 other project under development.



Exoplanets



Northern lights

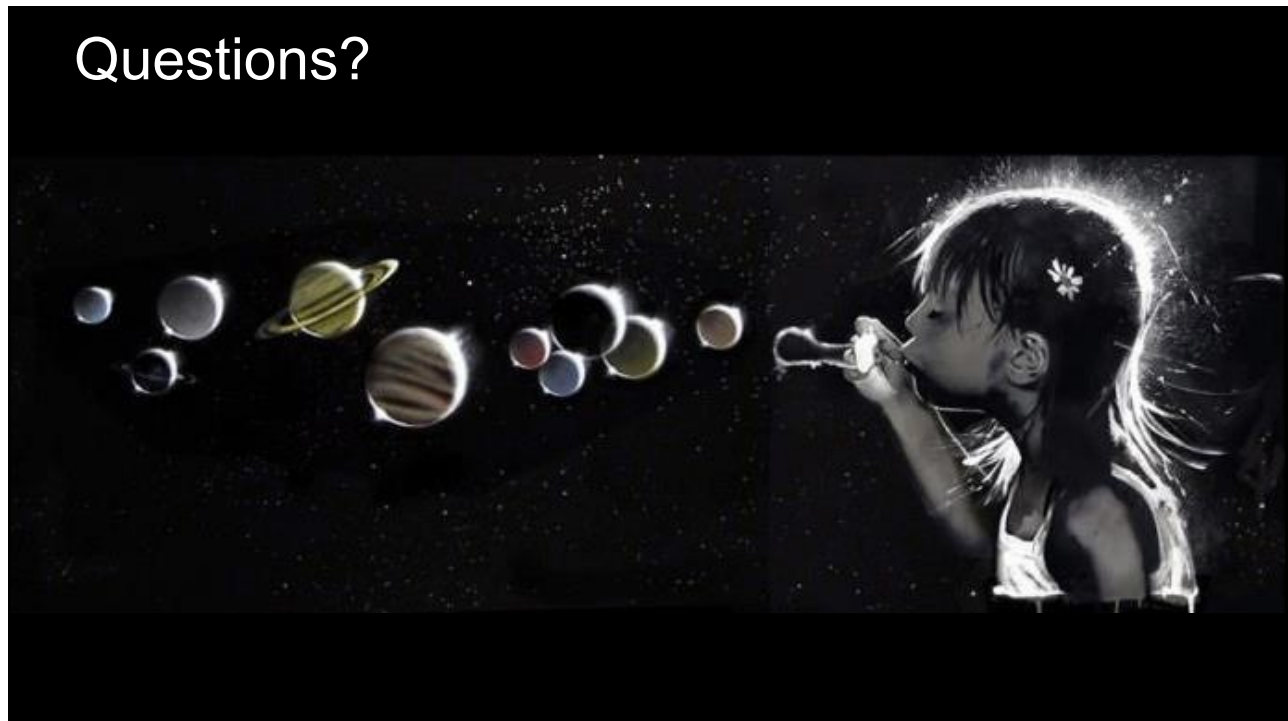


Planet Forming Disks



Algae Blooms

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