

BUILDING AND KEEPING OMNI-COMPREHENSIVE UFO DATABASES:

A COST-BENEFIT ANALYSIS

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UFO CATALOGUING

THE PIONEERS

Guy Quincy (1961)

Richard Hall (1964)

Jacques Vallée (1966): 500 observations

David Saunders (1967): UFOCAT

Jacques Vallée (1969): 923 landings

UFO CATALOGUES

REGIONAL

NATIONAL

INTERNATIONAL

GENERAL

eg. in Europe:
BE, DK, SF, IT, NL,
SP, SW, CH

UFOCAT

SPECIAL FEATURES

eg. In Italy: traces,
landings, effects,
humanoids, USO;
special witnesses

Phillips (traces),
Bloecher (CE3),
Weinstein (pilots)

QUALITY SELECTION

Moore (PrimeCat,UK)
Figuat (Beton, FR)

Smith (Unicat),
Hatch (U Database)

SELECTION CRITERIA

- **BY EXCLUSION**

(eg. no contactees, no humanoids, no IFO, no single witness, etc.)

- **BY INCLUSION**

(eg. only unexplained, only high strangeness, only special witnesses, only specific features, only investigated reports, etc.)

THE ITALIAN EXPERIENCE

PIONEERING EFFORTS (<1980)

- **Ufo in Italia (SUF, 1968)**
- **CUN waves cataloguing
(1950, 1952, 1954, 1973, 1978)**

THE ITALIAN EXPERIENCE

SPECIALIZED CATALOGUES TODAY

1. SPECIAL FEATURES OF CASES

- Type-1 (landings) [Verga]
- Humanoids [Fiorino]
- Ground Traces [Verga]
- Physical Effects [Innocenti]
- Angel Hair [Pernice]
- Crashed (seen falling to ground) [Foresta]
- Flaps [Toselli]
- Pre-UFO (<1900) [Torre]
- Photographic Cases [Verga]
- USO [Bianchini]
- Ball Lightnings [Toselli]

THE ITALIAN EXPERIENCE

SPECIALIZED CATALOGUES TODAY

2. SPECIAL WITNESSES

- Aircraft Pilots [Orlandi]
- Astronomers [Stilo]
- Military [Fiorino]
- Police [Michieletto]

THE ITALIAN EXPERIENCE

CISU NATIONAL ARCHIVE

- **since 1981: reorganization of CUN files [Grassino]**
- **As of 2013: >25,000 folders containing photocopy of any available source for each case history**

THE NATIONAL DATABASE

- **1980: Regional Catalogues [Russo]**
- **1984: Personal Computers [Bottaini]**
- **1991: Merging the Catalogues [Russo]**
- **2001: Centralization of Database [Abraini]**

COSTS OF ALL-INCLUSIVE DATABASES

- **Workload**
- **Noise/Signal Ratio**
- **GIGO Risk**

BENEFITS OF ALL-INCLUSIVE DATABASES

- **Unrepresentativeness of any sample**
- **Potential value of correlation**
- **Social sciences perspective**

CONCLUSION

Why cataloguing UFO reports?

- General UFO catalogues, archives, databases as a first reference to available case histories or raw data
- Different perspectives or purposes from researchers
- Exclusion or selection left for a second step