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Subject: idlmeteo library, Answer Tool  
Posted by [oet](#) on Thu, 01 Jul 1993 14:09:11 GMT  
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After putting the first alpha version of an Answer Tool for IDL on our ftp I've got a lot of messages. Some people asked me what's about the idlmeteo library directory which was empty. There is now a first collection of general functions and procedures available. Below the README.

-Thomas

## IDLMETEO LIBRARY 0.1a 1 july 1993

The idlmeteo library is currently just a collection of useful general functions and procedures from different internet and our own sources. Specific meteorological stuff will be our next aim.

### 1) Overview

If you want to have a short overview of what is currently in the idlmeteo library take the file idlmeteo.help.Z in this directory and install it in the IDL subdir help:

```
ftp ftp.sma.ch
```

```
user: anonymous
```

```
password: <your email address>
```

```
cd /pub/idlmeteo/idlmeteo-library
```

```
bin
```

```
get idlmeteo.help.Z
```

```
quit
```

```
uncompress idlmeteo.help
```

```
cp idlmeteo.help "$IDL_DIR"/help
```

```
rm idlmeteo.help
```

```
start IDL:
```

```
IDL> ?
```

You will now have a topic idlmeteo

If you think the functions and procedures could be useful for you too, feel free to take them and to install it in "\$IDL\_DIR"/lib :

```
ftp ftp.sma.ch      (141.249.3.33)
```

```
user: anonymous
```

```
password: <your email address>
```

```
cd /pub/idlmeteo/idlmeteo-library
```

```
bin
```

```
get idlmeteo.tar.Z
```

```
quit
```

```
cd "$IDL_DIR"/lib
```

```
zcat idlmeteo.tar | tar xvfo -
```

```
rm idlmeteo.tar
```

## 2) Enhanced online help (Answer Tool)

As you see there are about 1820 functions and procedures included the procedures of the IDL distribution.

To be able to get quickly information of what is already available for a topic we wrote an new superset over the IDL help file online system, which allows to create efficient database like select statements.

This "Answer Tool" is also available on our ftp site, as default it contains only the procedures and functions in the XDR saved database table 'ia\_data.sav'.

-> Note to have also the functions and procedures of the idlmeteo library you have either to copy the 'ia\_data.sav' table from "\$IDL\_DIR"/lib/idlmeteo/data to the directory where you have installed the "Answer Tool" or to change the path in the iatool startup script to access the database table in "\$IDL\_DIR"/lib/idlmeteo/data.

To get the "Answer Tool" do the following:

```
ftp ftp.sma.ch    (141.249.3.33)
```

```
user: anonymous
```

```
password: <your email address>
```

```
cd /pub/idlmeteo
```

```
bin
```

```
get IATool_0.1a.tar.Z
```

```
quit
```

```
zcat IATool_0.1a.tar.Z | tar xvof -
```

```
rm IATool_0.1a.tar
```

```
cd IATool
```

```
cp "$IDL_DIR"/lib/idlmeteo/data/ia_data.sav ia_data.sav
```

```
./iatool
```

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