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Ice core storage and information exchange

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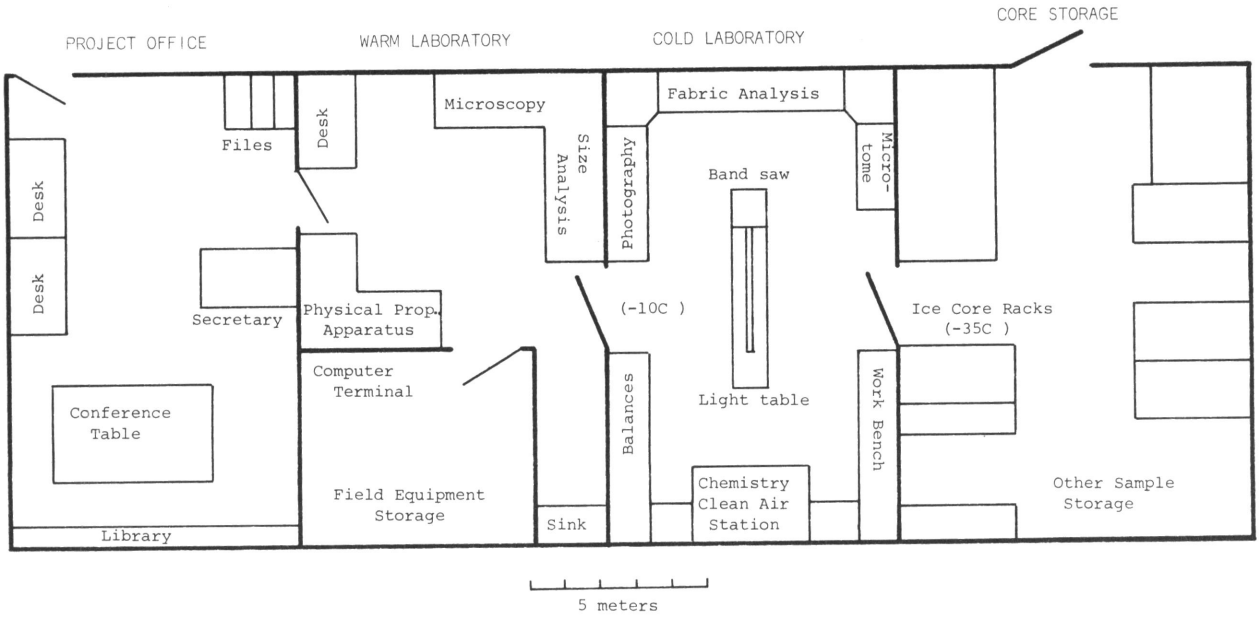
Our facility operates central and satellite ice core storage libraries and a curatorial and information exchange related to the cores, most of which we recovered in National Science Foundation-sponsored field research in the polar, subpolar, and temperate glacier regions. The facility arranges for and assists in proper transport of frozen samples from the field to the central location (figure) or to a warehouse.

On receipt, an ice core is inventoried and processed using established handling procedures. First, all pertinent field data and stratigraphic logs are checked and compared with the samples received to assure accuracy and to provide a datum for future studies. These data are placed in a computerized data bank. All ice cores recovered in Greenland and Antarctica since 1971 have individual data banks. For a list of the ice core inventory up to the summer of 1974, see Langway (1974); the table lists core received since. The data banks contain primary stratigraphy and available secondary core data generated to date on each core. The headings list: specific geographical and meteorological conditions for each site, type core drill used and whether the borehole was fluid filled, depth of the coring and core diameter, date of core recovery in the field, and any unusual cir-



Floor plan of the ice core storage facility, the cold laboratory, the warm laboratory, and the project office at the Department of Geological Sciences, State University of New York at Buffalo.

cumstances that may bear on future core studies. Listed in columns, the printout contains (depending upon availability of data for each core), in continuous small interval spacings, the depth, run/tube number, sample/delta (oxygen-18/oxygen-16) value, age of sample, percentage of melt features in the interval, dimensions and description of melt feature, density and load pressure at sample interval, *in situ* temperature, how much ice core is still available, and the amount of core used in the laboratory or institution and for what purpose. These ice core data banks and ice core samples are made available on request to the Chief Scientist, Division of Polar Programs, National Science Foundation, Washington, D.C. 20550. A new core-sample distribution policy is available upon request from the Division of Polar Programs.

The computer programs used for data bank recording and distribution of samples and for physical and chemistry studies on the ice cores are listed in the bibliography.

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Ice core inventory, State University of New York at Buffalo.

Year drilled	Location	Drilling method	Depth (meters)	Data bank available?
1969*	Byrd Station	CRREL thermal	400	No
1974	South Pole	CRREL shallow	101	Yes
	J-9, Ross Ice Shelf	CRREL shallow	93	Yes
1974	Dye 2, Greenland	CRREL shallow	100	Yes
1975	Dye 3, Greenland	Swiss shallow	92	No
	South Dome, Greenland	Swiss shallow	81	Yes
	Dye 2, Greenland	CRREL wire line test drilling	20	No
	South Dome, Greenland	Swiss shallow	30	All used for study

*Received 3 August 1976. Core drilled by University of Bern (Switzerland) in 1969.