Appendix G. SAVED Data

In rare cases data will be encountered in the PDS archive which are classified as having ARCHIVE_STATUS = SAVED. These data are being preserved in a primitive form either pending the production of an archive-quality product, or as part of a save-the-bits campaign for a defunct mission or project. In these cases the available information has been preserved in as close an approximation of PDS archive format as possible. Following is a description of the criteria applied to datasets considered for safing, and the PDS procedures applied during the process. It is provided here for information only – saved datasets are not considered acceptable for the purposes of meeting PDS archiving requirements.

G.1   Safekeeping Process and Procedures

The decision to save a dataset will normally be made by the discipline node after discussion with the data provider. The decision may also be made by a data engineer at the Central Node after discussion with both the data provider and the most relevant discipline node(s). Preservation should take place according to the following procedures.

1. The details of every dataset to be saved will be discussed in a conference, such as a telecon or iteration of e-mail messages, among the data provider, the representatives of the relevant discipline node(s), and a data engineer from Central Node. This discussion will address:

    a. The characteristics of the data to be preserved
    b. The reasons for preserving rather than archiving the data
    c. The timetable for producing an archival product from the preserved data
    d. The proposed unique VOLUME_ID for the product
    e. The extent of the additional information to be included

2. The conclusions of the decision-making conference will be summarized by the data engineer and distributed to all participants.

3. The dataset will normally be prepared and delivered by the data provider according to the agreed content and format.

4. The data engineer at the Central Node will ensure that the product is incorporated into the Distributed Inventory System (DIS).

G.2   Safekeeping Standards

The following items are desirable for any preserved dataset. Some are required, as noted.

1. VOLUME_ID – This ID is required for every preserved product, must be unique within PDS, and must conform to the volume naming standards of PDS.

2. DIS.LBL – This label file is required for every preserved product and must conform to the PDS labeling standards.

3. AAREADME.TXT – This file describes the directory structure and the content of the volume. It also includes contact information for the original source of the data.

4. INDEX.TXT – This file is used if the individual data files do not have PDS labels. It consists of free format text and is a less rigorous version of INDEX.TAB.

5. Minimal labels – Individual files should be labeled with "minimal labels" as described in Section 5.2.3.

6. Document directory – This directory is optional but all files must have minimal labels.

7. Software directory – This directory is optional but all files must have minimal labels

Items 1 and 2 are absolutely required for all preserved datasets. Items 3 through 5, though not required, are strongly recommended for every preserved dataset. Items 6 and 7 are strongly recommended where appropriate.