

Minconference on ‘Aquifers as archives of paleoclimate’

M. Stute and P. Schlosser

Background

Despite many years of intensive research, there are still gaps in our understanding of how the individual components of the Earth’s climate system are coupled. While climate models can reproduce climate conditions during the more recent past relatively well, there are still discrepancies between model simulations and climate conditions reconstructed for periods in the past, such as the last glacial maximum. Part of this problem is probably related to the fact that climate processes need to be better understood and parameterized in the models. However, there is another problem in comparing climate information derived from models and observations, respectively: Paleoclimate records obtained by different observational methods disagree for many parts of the world and there are large areas on this planet (e.g. Asia and Africa) where there is very little information about climate conditions during the last glacial period.