

Interactive comment on “Status Update: Is smoke on your mind? Using social media to determine smoke exposure” by Bonne Ford et al.

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Thanks, Sarah for your thoughtful review of our manuscript. While Bonne works on the full response, I wanted to respond about your hyphen comment because proper hyphenation of compound adjectives (<http://www.grammarbook.com/punctuation/hyphens.asp>) is a (strange?) personal crusade of mine.

I like to use the following sentence as an example...

"We need more accurate measurements."

Do we need measurements that are more accurate? Or do we already have measurements that are accurate enough, but rather we need more of these accurate measure-

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ments. The former should be "more-accurate measurements", and the latter should be "more accurate measurements". However, when an author does not establish that they always hyphenate compound adjectives, even when the meaning is likely obvious from context, sentences like this (without a hyphen) are ambiguous.

Thus, something like "air quality data" seems obvious and the use of "air-quality data" seems unnecessary (we clearly don't mean "quality data" of the air variety, which is what the strict meaning of "air quality data" without a hyphen is). However, by using the hyphen, we are establishing that if we have a compound-adjective situation, we will always use a hyphen. This way, if we say, "We need more accurate measurements." you can be confident that we already have the means of making accurate measurements, we just need more of these measurements. If we had meant the other definition, we would have used a hyphen.

Note that we do not use a hyphen for "air quality" when it is not an adjective, "...improvements in air quality." (if we did, this was a mistake, and we will check for this). We only hyphenate when it being used as a compound adjective.

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