

5. DOCUMENTATION

(Committee of the Executive Committee)

PRESIDENT: J. B. Sykes.

VICE-PRESIDENT: K. F. Ogorodnikov.

No Organizing Committee.

The title of the Commission was changed from Abstracts and Bibliography to Documentation in 1968 (*IAU Inf. Bull.* no. 21, p. 6).

Primary publications

Five European astronomy journals (*Annales d'astrophysique*, *Bulletin astronomique*, *Bulletin of the Astronomical Institutes of The Netherlands*, *Journal des Observateurs*, *Zeitschrift für Astrophysik*) ceased separate publication and joined forces as a new, mainly English-language, journal *Astronomy and Astrophysics* at the beginning of 1969.

The change was noted in *Babel*, the journal of the Fédération Internationale des Traducteurs, with the comment that the use of English would facilitate communication between scientists, but might on the other hand make more difficult the establishment of correct and uniform terminology in the various European languages at the level of teaching or industrial application.

Kemp proposes a study of the citations in the 1969 and 1974 volumes of *Astronomy and Astrophysics*, to see whether the new form of publication has had any influence on habits of choosing journals to write in and to read in.

Secondary publications

(1) *Astronomy and Astrophysics Abstracts*. Members of the Commission were sent copies of announcements concerning the changeover from the annual *Astronomischer Jahresbericht* in German to the twice-yearly *Astronomy and Astrophysics Abstracts*, mainly in English, beginning with the literature of 1969. (See also *IAU Inf. Bull.* no. 20, p. 17; no. 22, p. 23.) Authors' abstracts are printed whenever available; a good response has been obtained by direct application to authors when abstracts are not published.

(2) *Referativnyj Žurnal Astronomija* has included, since January 1969, for all papers originally published in Russian, titles in both Russian and English, and authors' names in both Russian and Western transliteration (*IAU Inf. Bull.* no. 21, p. 6). Lack of facilities for translation into English prevented continuation of the project to publish an edition entirely in English (*Trans. IAU*, XIII B, p. 54). This difficulty was alleviated by the development of *Astronomy and Astrophysics Abstracts* (see above).

(3) *Astrophysical Abstracts* has been published quarterly by Gordon and Breach (New York) since August 1969.

ICSU abstracting board

A description of the work of the International Council of Scientific Unions Abstracting Board (IAB) has been given in the previous Report (*Trans. IAU*, XIII A, p. lxxvi). I attended, as representative of the IAU, the General Assemblies of IAB in July 1968, January 1969, and September 1969. I also served on the IAB Planning and Steering Committee from January 1969. At the September 1969 meeting I presented on behalf of the Union some comments on probable developments of abstracting services in the next few years.

IAB has set up Working Groups in five main subject fields; the one for Astronomy comprises representatives of the IAU and of the abstracting services in astronomy. The function of these groups is to promote collaboration and investigate problems arising in their respective fields.

Member Unions of IAB are to pay an annual subscription of \$ 100, beginning in 1970. (Member Services pay \$ 1000 or more.)

In May 1969 the Planning and Steering Committee of IAB resolved to recommend to the Scientific Unions "to reinforce their action for the purpose of obtaining abstracts prepared by authors and editors, to be published with all scientific papers".

IAB is also assisting in the project for a world science information system (UNISIST) and is conducting an extensive study of the needs of users of scientific information.

Classification

Staff of *Bulletin Signalétique*, under the auspices of IAB, have carried out a comparison of the latest revised subject classification schemes used by *Astronomy and Astrophysics Abstracts*, *Bulletin Signalétique* (corresponding to the classification in use at the Paris Observatory), *Referativnyj Žurnal*, and the Universal Decimal Classification. It appears possible to arrive quickly at a common scheme which will facilitate exchange of abstracts and the specification of each service's coverage.

The revision of the Universal Decimal Classification for astronomy, proposed by VINITI* (*Trans. IAU, XIII B*, p. 54) was circulated on a small scale by the Fédération Internationale de la Documentation in August 1969 as a "draft P note" (1969: 17) for comment within three months. This will probably be followed by wider distribution as a "P note" with six months for comment, and the final stage is inclusion of the revised classification in the UDC itself.

Kemp has plans for a system linking three levels of operations in subject classification: book arrangement, the classified arrangement of card indexes, and a coding system for machine retrieval. He would be glad to hear from anyone who is considering the use of machine retrieval systems for astronomical literature.

Current-awareness publications

VINITI is to publish in Russian and English a twice-monthly current-awareness journal in astronomy (*Signal'naya informacija astronomija*), beginning in 1971, instead of the proposed printed cards (*Trans. IAU, XIII B*, p. 56), which would have been too expensive. Items will appear about two months earlier than in *Referativnyj Žurnal*. Photocopies of originals will be available from VINITI.

The ESRO/ELDO Space Documentation Service has introduced a series of 111 Standard Profiles (including about 15 astronomical subjects), providing a subscription service of monthly listings of recent literature.

Information use

Meadows and O'Connor (University of Leicester, U.K.) have published a small number of copies of a report giving the results of an inquiry into sources of information and information retrieval by U.K. astronomers and space scientists in 1967. This is part of a continuing study of information needs for astronomy in the U.K. and elsewhere.

Bibliography of Astronomy 1881-1898

The proposed publication in book form (*IAU Inf. Bull.* no. 19, p. 25) had to be abandoned owing to insufficient support (*ibid.* no. 22, p. 15).

A British microfilm company has agreed to produce a 35 mm microfilm version of the 60000 slips forming the Bibliography. This will be sold at \$ 180 per copy, with 10% of the charge paid as a royalty to the IAU. After being microfilmed, the slips will remain available for consultation by visitors to the Brussels Observatory.

Collinder has published the Swedish contribution separately (*Ark. Astr.*, 4, No. 19, 1966).

* Vsesojuznyj Institut Naučnoj i Tehničeskoj Informacii, the Soviet Institute of Scientific and Technical Information.

Other bibliographies

Lavrova has compiled and published a bibliography of Russian astronomical literature 1800–1900 (*Trudy gos. astr. Inst. Šternberga*, 37, 1968). The 4250 titles cover all publications by Russian astronomers, including those published in other countries. She also assisted P. G. Kulikovskij in preparing the annual bibliography of the history of astronomy.

K. Maichel's *Guide to Russian reference books*, vol. V, *Science, technology and medicine* (Stanford, 1967) deals with astronomy on pp. 82–88, including 22 bibliographies and 11 dictionaries.

Transliteration

Agreement has been reached on a standard transliteration of the Russian alphabet to be used by *Astronomy and Astrophysics Abstracts* and *Referativnyj žurnal*. The agreed system is as follows:

а	а	к	k	х	kh
б	b	л	l	ц	ts
в	v	м	m	ч	ch
г	g	н	n	ш	sh
д	d	о	o	щ	shch
е	e	п	p	ъ	"
ё	e	р	r	ы	y
ж	zh	с	s	ь	'
з	z	т	t	э	eh
и	i	у	u	ю	yu
й	j	ф	f	я	ya

It is for consideration by Commission 5 at the IAU General Assembly whether this system should now be recommended for adoption by the Union in place of that given in *Trans. IAU*, XIIIC, pp. 69, 115.

Terminology

Hirose reports that a draft list of Japanese and English astronomical terms has been completed and will probably be published in 1970 after correlation with the terminology in other branches of science.

Catalogues

Alter reports that the second edition of the *Catalogue of Star Clusters and Associations* by Alter, Ruprecht and Vanýsek is to be published by the Hungarian Academy of Sciences under the editorship of Alter, Ruprecht and Balázs. It will include the contents of the annual supplements published since 1958 in the *Bulletin of the Astronomical Institutes of Czechoslovakia*.

List of non-commercial publications and catalogues from observatories

This work (*Trans. IAU*, XIIIA, p. lxxix) is being completed by Mr J. Rosenberg of the Utrecht Astronomical Institute. It will list serials published (current and ceased) and availability, probably as a looseleaf volume. Lavrova has collated the information concerning U.S.S.R. observatories. The International Federation of Library Associations has granted the sum of 1000 Swiss francs to cover printing costs.

Library holdings

The Special Libraries Association (U.S.A.) group of astronomical librarians is investigating means of constructing a union list of the contents of astronomical libraries. Lavrova is conducting a similar inquiry in the U.S.S.R.

Dissertations

The Special Libraries Association group is endeavouring to ensure that all astronomy dissertations at U.S. universities are included in *International Aerospace Abstracts*.

Ancient books

Mme G. Grassi Conti (Osservatorio Astronomico di Roma) is collecting data for a union catalogue of manuscripts, incunabula and rare books. This work also has had financial support from the International Federation of Library Associations.

J. B. SYKES
President of the Commission