

5. COMMISSION DES ANALYSES DE TRAVAUX ET DE BIBLIOGRAPHIE

(Comité du Comité Exécutif)

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FORM OF PAPERS

Not only the content, but also the presentation of a scientific paper is important for the reader. A Style Book for astronomers has been published (*Trans. IAU*, 12 C, 55 and 101, 1966). It contains:

- A. How to prepare manuscripts for printing.
- B. Spelling and transliteration.
- C. Notations, formulae, units.
- D. Abbreviations of titles of scientific periodicals (*Trans. IAU*, 12 C, 76).
- E. How to correct proofs.

For the comments of librarians of astronomical observatories see section C of the Report of the Working Group, which follows. Useful hints for authors may be found also in a booklet published recently by the Royal Society (1965).

It has been remarked that English abstracts in foreign journals are very useful, even if the English is sometimes not very good. Such abstracts should be encouraged. Our Commission recommends also that Russian abstracts be published with astronomical papers.

ECONOMY OF PUBLICATION

In some cases, there is a tendency for the same work to be published at least four times: as research material in a scientific journal; repeated in a slightly different form at one or more symposia, either before or after the previous publication; summarized, or expanded, in one or more progress reports on astronomy; and, finally, incorporated in a textbook. In the opinion of some astronomers, it is the second stage, namely publication in the proceedings of symposia, that is confusing and wasteful. In this connection it would be interesting to extrapolate the gloomy comments of Barnabe Rich from 1613: 'One of the diseases of this age is the multiplicity of books; they doth so overcharge the world that it is not able to digest the abundance of idle matter that is everyday hatched and brought forth into the world.' (Swanson 1966, p. 12).

The average readership of a scientific article is surprisingly low in chemistry and biosciences (Swanson 1966) and this seems also to be true for astronomy. It has been therefore suggested to publish papers only in the form of lengthy (about one page) abstracts, with the full text available on request. The Russian journal *Atomnaya Energiya* regularly publishes some papers in this way. This new possibility of economic publication has of course also its drawbacks.

BIBLIOGRAPHY OF ASTRONOMY 1881-98

All the material concerning this bibliography collected with great patience and diligence by Mr Dermul in Anvers has been transferred to the Observatoire Royal de Belgique. The present state and future plans for publication follow from a quotation by the Director of the Observatory, Professor Velghe (1966): 'L'Observatoire Royal de Belgique envisage la publication de la Bibliographie de l'Astronomie pour la période 1881-98, lorsqu'il sera en possession de toutes les fiches y afférentes. Le Directeur de l'Observatoire Royal fait un pressant appel à tous ceux qui sont engagés à dépouiller la littérature astronomique de leur pays, pour que les fiches lui parviennent avant le 1er juin 1967, date à laquelle le fichier sera considéré comme complet. Le projet de publication sera communiqué aux membres de la Commission 5, au cours de la prochaine Assemblée Générale de l'UAI, à Prague.'

ABSTRACTING JOURNALS

Recorded knowledge about the Universe accumulates at an increasing rate while the rate at which it can be read remains constant. In the astronomer's endeavour to keep abreast of the increasing flow of recorded knowledge, the abstracting journals have the most important role. The four abstracting journals for astronomy have continued to abstract world literature on astronomy on a routine basis. They have all become member-services of the ICSU Abstracting Board.

ABSTRACTING BOARD OF THE INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL OF
SCIENTIFIC UNIONS (IAB)

The IAU is a member of the IAB. The aim of the IAB is to initiate and further develop the exchange and publication of primary and secondary scientific information. By secondary publications are meant abstracts and indexes drawn up from the already published material.

Since 1964 an annual list of publications issued by ICSU and its members is prepared by IAB. The IAB acts as an advisory body for ICSU and its members on problems of scientific information. It represents the interests of ICSU and its members in other international institutions dealing with scientific information.

There are two categories of members of the IAB:

(1) representatives of international unions and

(2) representatives of the main secondary publications (abstracting and reference services – the so-called member-services). At present there are four member-services for astronomy: *Astronomischer Jahresbericht*, *Bulletin signalétique du Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique: Section 2, Astronomie, Astrophysique, Physique du Globe*, *Physics Abstracts* and *Referativnyi Zhurnal*.

At the July 1966 full board meeting in Paris the IAU was represented by the President of Commission 5. His proposals were all accepted and it was resolved (Resolution 8, cooperation with IAU) that:

(1) The abstracting journal *Astronomischer Jahresbericht* was unanimously elected member-service of the Board for the German language in astronomy.

Bulletin signalétique du CNRS and *Referativnyi Zhurnal* are the two other member-services for this field, for the French and Russian languages respectively.

There is no abstracting journal in the English language covering astronomy as such.

(2) The IAU will keep the IAB informed of collective works and of publications resulting from scientific meetings in the field of astronomy.

The Secretariat will communicate this information to member-services in astronomy with a view to improving the coverage of non-periodical publications in this field by member-services of the Board.

- The IAU recommends to member-services for astronomy to envisage the possibility of announcing these publications not only under the names of scientific editors, but also under the names of the individual authors themselves.

- (3) With the help of the IAU the Board will try to establish a list of all primary periodicals dealing with astronomy.

The action on hand in the other fields covered by the Board to improve primary publications will be extended to these publications in astronomy.

A Working Group on Documentation in Astronomy was formed at the Hamburg meeting. This Working Group forms a link between IAU Commission 5 and the 'Fédération Internationale des Associations de Bibliothécaires'. On the basis of correspondence with all the astronomical libraries of the world Mme Feuillebois has carefully prepared the hereafter appended information, suggestions and comments for the Draft Report of Commission 5.

J. KLECZEK
President of the Commission

REFERENCES

- The Royal Society 1965, *General Notes on the Preparation of Scientific Papers*, 2nd edition, London, 32 pages.
Swanson, D. R. 1966, *Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists*, 22 (2), Feb. 1966, pp. 8-12.
Velghe, A. G. 1966, A note on the astronomical bibliography 1881-98, to be published in the *IAU Information Bulletin*.

APPENDICE. GROUPE DE TRAVAIL SUR LA DOCUMENTATION ASTRONOMIQUE

A. Informations

1. La Fédération Internationale des Associations de Bibliothécaires (FIAB) a créé une sous-section des bibliothèques d'observatoires et de sociétés astronomiques, qui travaillera en étroit rapport avec le groupe de travail, et qui a tenu ses premières réunions pendant la 32ème session de la FIAB à La Haye, les 13 et 15 Septembre 1966.

2. Son statut prévoit, dans le cadre des sessions de la FIAB:

(a) une réunion annuelle;

(b) une assemblée générale tous les 3 ans (l'année précédant l'Assemblée Générale de l'UAI), pour préparer les travaux du groupe de travail.

3. Le programme des séances tenues à La Haye était le suivant:

(a) Présentation de la nouvelle sous-section et établissement des statuts.

(b) Communications:

— Emploi de la Flexowriter pour le catalogage en astronomie (Mr Kemp, Edinburgh).

— Etat actuel et problèmes de la bibliographie astronomique (Mme Lavrova, Institut Sternberg, Moscou).

— 'The U.S. Naval Observatory Library at Washington, D.C.' (Mrs L. S. Multhauf, U.S. Naval Observatory).

— Présentation du catalogue par matières et de la liste des 'vedettes-matières' d'astronomie de l'Observatoire de Paris (Mme Feuillebois).

liste précisera, pour chaque publication l'adresse exacte de l'organisme distributeur, ainsi que les numéros disponibles et les numéros épuisés. Cette liste sera présentée à Prague par le groupe de travail.

(b) *Etude des possibilités de limitation des revues commerciales.* Le groupe de travail s'inquiète de la parution, au cours de ces dernières années, de nouvelles revues astronomiques prises en charge par des éditeurs commerciaux et qui viennent s'ajouter aux revues déjà existantes. Mais les bibliothécaires sont obligés de constater que les astronomes eux-mêmes souhaitent l'acquisition de ces nouvelles revues. De plus, les revues existantes (comme *l'Astrophysical Journal*) sont de plus en plus volumineuses, et l'on conçoit mal comment elles pourraient s'accroître encore.

Toutefois ce problème doit, semble-t-il, être pris en considération par la Commission 5 de l'UAI: c'est en effet aux astronomes eux-mêmes qu'il appartient de prendre la décision de limiter de telles revues.

G. FEUILLEBOIS