

**NATIONAL NUCLEAR DATA CENTER
Bldg. 197D
Brookhaven National Laboratory
P. O. Box 5000
Upton, NY 11973-5000 U.S.A.**

(Internet) "NNDC@BNL.GOV

Telephone: (516)344-2902

FAX: (516)344-2806

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DATE: December 29, 1997
TO: Distribution
FROM: V.McLane
SUBJECT: Dates for the year 2000 in EXFOR and DANIEL

The year 2000 is approaching and dates coded in EXFOR entries will have to be updated to include a 4-digit year in order to avoid confusion. I have been looking at the problem and suggest the following solutions. I suggest we allow the use of dates with 2-digit years for this century and begin requiring a 4-digit year in the year 2000.

Since leaving a 4-digit year for older entries may cause confusion, and/or other troubles for users, we should consider beginning to use a 4-digit year on new and retransmitted entries, and at some time in the future, converting all older entries to a 4-digit year.

1. **For dates in the System Identifier records.** These are an easy fix since they are given in an integer field (11 columns wide). The processing codes will be fixed to put out a 4-digit year in all cases.
2. **For date codes under EXP-YEAR and HISTORY.** These are also an easy fix since they are given as a 2-digit year and 6-digit date (yyymmdd), respectively. The processing codes will be updated to put out a 4-digit year in all cases.
3. **For date codes under REFERENCE, REL-REF, MONIT-REF.** These codes may now consist of either 2-, 4- or 6-digit date codes. The processing codes will be updated to recognize the year by testing for a value ≥ 30 in the first two digits. This will allow date identification until the year 3000, by which time I hope we have updated the system.
4. **The DANIEL Archive Dictionaries.** The format of the DANIEL database will be changed to include a 4-digit year. The database will need to be reloaded after the program updates are completed.