

**Nuclear Data Section
International Atomic Energy Agency
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Memo CP-D/525

Date: 19 September, 2008
To: Distribution
From: S.Dunaeva

Subject: Change NRDC compilation responsibilities to dedicated journal coverage

Two years ago, NNDC proposed significant changes to EXFOR compilation responsibilities on a geographical basis through their replacement with full journal coverage by individual centres (see Memo CP-C/380, WP2006-6). However, this suggestion was set aside by the NRDC at their 2006 and 2007 meetings. The biennial INDC meeting of the International Nuclear Data Committee (INDC) in 2008 has requested the NRDC to re-consider this position, and urged that the original proposal be given a trial test period by the NRDC.

NDS staff propose the following changes in compilation responsibilities for 2008-09, that will be primarily based on important existing journals (rather than geographical areas):

PR/C	NNDC
PRL	NNDC
NSE	NNDC
CJP	NNDC
ARI	NDS
NP/A	NDS
CNP	NDS
NIM/A and B	NDS
PL/B	NDS
YF	CAJAD
EPJ	CAJAD
IZV	CNPD
YK	CJD
ANE	NEA
RCA	NEA
AEJ	JCPRG
NST	JCPRG

NSTS	JCPRG
AHP	ATOMKI
JRN	ATOMKI
JRN/L	ATOMKI

We would like to remind you of the following points of note:

1. 2005 decision (WP2005-31)

“The references relevant to EXFOR have to be included in EXFOR within six months after publication. If there are no possibility to receive data from the author (if he keeps silence on e-mail) the compiler can digitize curves and point out under STATUS that there was no response from the author. Compiler has to mention the name of the author and his e-mail address.”

After this period of six months, NDS will take responsibility for the compilation of such papers (this means NDS staff will re-assign to another centre).

2. NRDC Protocol states

“..... If a center has a need for a particular data set to be compiled immediately, the center should send a request to the responsible center, with a copy to NDS. If the responsible center cannot compile the data in the time needed to meet the requirements of the center making the request, the center making the request can compile the data after informing both the coordinating centre and the responsible centre.”

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Memo CP-C/380

DATE: September 21, 2006
TO: Distribution
FROM: D. Rochman, P. Oblozinsky
SUBJECT: Proposal to change the geographic compilation responsibility to full journal coverage

Proposal

We propose to replace the current geographic compilation responsibility of refereed journals and nuclear data conference proceedings by their full coverage as follows, starting on January 2007, for neutron, charged particle and photon –induced reactions:

- NNDC – all refereed journals published in US (Physical Review C, Nuclear Science and Engineering, Physical Review Letters, etc) irrespective of the geographic origin of the paper.
- NEA DB - all refereed journals published in EU (Nuclear Physics A, Nuclear Instruments & Methods, etc.)
- IPPE Obninsk – all refereed journals published in Russia (Yadernaya Fizika, etc.)
- NDS – all remaining refereed journals

Justification

The process of searching in the literature for relevant publications for the CSISRS database requires lot of efforts and time, mainly because of the geographic distribution of journal coverage. The proposed change, from the geographic journal coverage to editor-related journal coverage, would require less searching time and will speed up the compilation process.

Up to now, a compiler needs to screen all the nuclear physics literature in order to find relevant publication that she/he is allowed to compile following the “geographic distribution” rule. **(1)** It requires lot of searching time to go through about 20 main journals. The potential danger is that a compiler will focus on some major journals (like Physical Review, Nuclear Physics) and will neglect to carefully study other source of publications where relevant articles occasionally occur. **(2)** Another drawback is the repetition of work performed between centers. For instance, all compilers need to go through the APS journals to find articles that should be compiled. This implies that a compiler in the USA is looking at Elsevier journals, a compiler at the IAEA is also looking at the same journals and a third compiler working for the NEA Data Bank is checking for the third time the same journals. **(3)**

A hypothetical advantage of this process (that a compiler will contact another center to inform it about potential article of interest) is actually not working because of additional amount of work that it requires.

(4) A common argument in favor of the “geographic distribution” is that it is easier to compile a publication from an experimental work performed in the vicinity of the data center. This might be true at a time when communications were not as fast as today, when laboratories did not exchange information so that an experimental procedure was used at a single place, or when communications between countries were minimized for political reasons. None of these reasons do apply today. Because of the wide e-mail access, data can be sent from China to Europe in a minute; with extensive laboratory collaborations, common experimental methods are universally used; all published information is widely shared between countries.

Thus, we propose “publisher distribution” rule instead of the “geographic distribution” rule for article publication and conference proceedings. As an example, the NNDC would be responsible for APS journals and Canadian journals. The advantages will be:

- Faster literature search for the compilers
- No search repetition between centers
- No dependence on other centers to find relevant publications
- **Possible contact between compilation centers and publishers in order to perform less manual intervention in the compilation process.**

This last possibility will bring another dimension to the compilation process. With the current technology, it is possible to have a more automatic compilation process where a publisher could provide a compilation center with already formatted information directly from the published paper. By the “geographical distribution”, the application of this idea becomes more complicated because it would involve a broader agreement between institutions, compilation centers and publishers.

In summary, we propose a modification of the geographic journal coverage to publisher journal coverage to speed up the compilation process, avoid redundant work and use modern technology to automatize compilation procedures.