Questionnaire on Usage of Dictionaries
(N. Otsuka, 2013-04-22, A18)

NRDC 2012 Meeting A18: *Assess the current use of various dictionaries and their types (archive, backup, trans) by compilers and computer programs maintained by data centres for possible simplification (WP2012-13).*

The following two questions were sent to 22 people in 14 data centres in 4 April 2013, and I have received answers from 18 people (14 compilers from 12 centres and 4 software engineers from 4 centres). Therefore 7% of compilers 25% or engineers are equivalent to a vote.

Q1. How many people user four types of dictionaries? (in %)

Type	Compilers	Engineers
archive	36%	25%
backup	64%	50%
trans	71%	50%
editor selector	64%	25%

Q2. How many people uses below no up-to-date dictionaries? (in %)

dict #	Contents	Compilers	Engineers
9	compounds (only in TRANS)	14%	25%
10	standard reaction	7%	25%
11	forbidden reaction for old CINDA	0%	25%
12	old CINDA quantities	0%	0%
13	reaction type (superseded by # 213)	7%	50%
14	reaction dimensions (for #36/236)	7%	25%
27	nuclides (superseded by #227)	21%	25%
36	quantities (superseded by #236)	21%	50%
42	old CINDA quantities	0%	25%
44	Evaluated libraries (all defined in #144)	7%	0%
124	Data headings for plotting	7%	0%
125	Data units for plotting	7%	0%
136	Quantities for plotting	7%	0%

Any comment?

From Compilers

- Dictionaries 10-14, 124-136 are absent in trans.9104. I use trans.9104 every day at compilation, checking transes and so on. I would appreciate greatly, if it would be updated 3 times in a year (according to our rules). It's not convenient to work with "old" dictionaries.

- I use Dictionary 9, 27 and 36 when we want to understand codes used in old trances / master files and they are no longer defined in new dictionaries.

- I use those dictionaries and type of dictionaries which one is easier to reach/open/read for me depending on which machine I work.

- I don't use any of these old dictionaries, but I don't use much more recent ones! Note that I use the one in trans format from time to time to check prelim files, but I could use the one in archive format as well.

- I exclusively use the trans format. My computer display is not very wide, and the 80th column trans dictionary is convenient. But I also use the back up dictionary when I create ZVV dictionary for CHEX.

- I use backup dictionary only when I create dictionaries for CHEX.

From Engineers

- Dictionaries flagged 10, 11 and 14 are stored in JANIS database and flagged "Yes" in my answer, but are actually unused. Dic 14 was kept because documentation say that dic 236 format is A3,A1,A4... It can be guessed that A1 should contains a valid entry from dic 14, but the archive format give dic 236 format as A4,A4,... so dic 14 disappear in the 'archive' context.

- As for the EXFOR-Editor the ACCESS version of the dictionaries prepared for us by Victor is called in. The dictionaries 1-8, 15-25, 30, 31-35, 144, 207, 209, 213, 227, 235, 236, 950 are used in the program.

Some comments from N.O.:

- All old dictionaries (9, 10-14, 27, 36, 42, 44, 124-125, 136) are no longer maintained, and should not be used!! We can use old dictionaries for interpretation of old tapes.

- Two retrieval systems maintained by JAEA and JCPRG must be upgraded so that they can use dictionaries 213 and 236 instead of dictionaries 13 and 36.

- The TRANS dictionary is still widely used by EXFOR compilers.

- The backup dictionary is mainly used for creation of ZVV dictionaries and engineers.

- The backup dictionary is created from the archive dictionary for distribution. I could write a Perl script (less than 100 lines!), which creates the backup dictionary from archive dictionary. So it should be not difficult for engineers to deal with archive dictionary without backup dictionary.