History Coding

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Memo CP-D/835 led to a more general discussion on our practices in HISTORY coding, resulting in a modified proposal for the relevant LEXFOR page.

The current LEXFOR page says

The rules concerning BIB information apply to HISTORY, *i.e., an entry under HISTORY in the common subentry (SAN=1) applies to all other subentries and should not be repeated in the data subentries.*

While this rule is kept in the wording proposed in CP-D/835 saying

In the first subentry (Common Subentry), a record flagged with the code A
- *should refer to all of the following subentries, as usual.*

it appears that these wordings are too strong.
Taken literally, this wording implies that subentry 1 can only have code A when either subentry 1 itself has an important change, or if every single data subentry has an important change. On the other hand, in the interest of easy tracking of important alterations, even when only one data subentry has an important change, this should be considered an important change of the entry as such, and should therefore be reflected in subentry 1.

The other point we want to clarify, in accordance with the idea of the earlier memo CP-D/537Rev, is that all important changes must be reported in the affected subentry (and be summarized, without repeating the details, in the first subentry). For unimportant alterations, a summary in the first subentry is sufficient.

The complete draft LEXFOR page, reflecting the above in combination with memos CP-D/835 and CP-D/537Rev, is appended below.

History

The keyword HISTORY is used to document the chronological handling of the work within a data centre. In particular, ***important*** ~~corrections or revisions~~ alterations to an entry or subentry must be documented under HISTORY.

The coded information consists of a date and a one-character code, and is followed by free text. (See EXFOR Formats Manual Chapter 7: **HISTORY**, for coding details; see Dictionary 15 for list of codes).

History Code A
Important alterations are flagged with the code A in order to automate, as far as possible, follow-up actions resulting from the alteration, such as informing users who have received an earlier version. The following items are considered sufficiently important to be flagged with the code A:

- any change in the numbers given under COMMON or DATA

- any change in the meaning of these numbers (*e.g.*, due to change of reaction, units, the reaction under MONITOR, *etc.*)

- any change in the validity of these numbers (*e.g.*, superseded by another data set.)

and must be explained in free text, too. This explanation should be specific, e.g. saying what change was made to the REACTION coding, rather than saying only 'REACTION corrected'.
All important alterations must be documented in the affected subentries, and be summarized (without repeating the details) in the first subentry.

Less important alterations that the compiler wishes to document may be flagged by the code U.[1]

History Code C *(new paragraph)*
When a new entry is created, the date must be entered with the code C in the first subentry. When a new subentry is inserted to an existing entry, the date must be entered with the code C in the inserted subentry.

History Code D *(new paragraph)*
When a data subentry is replaced with a NOSUBENT record, the date must be entered with the code D in the first subentry. The reason (*e.g.*, duplication) must always be explained in free text.

History Code R
When the compiler receives a data set from the author, the date must be entered with the history code R.

History Code U *(new paragraph)*
Unimportant alterations need not be documented in all affected subentries. Compilers may summarize them in subentry 1.

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[1] Compilers are urged to document all changes under HISTORY

HISTORY coding in the first subentry *(new paragraph)*

Detailed HISTORY information applying only to one particular subentry should not be copied to the first subentry, in line with the general rules concerning BIB information. However, an important alteration to one subentry constitutes at the same time an important alteration to the entry as such and should therefore be reflected in the HISTORY entry in subentry 1, so that users need not check every single subentry to see whether there was an important alteration.

The following alterations must be included in HISTORY of subentry 1:

- Any important alteration in either subentry 1 itself or in any data subentry (without repeating the details). See above for what constitutes an important alteration.
- The deletion of a data subentry (with code D)
- The addition of a data subentry (with code C in the new subentry and code A in subentry 1)
- If only unimportant changes were made, an entry with code U.

~~The rules concerning BIB information apply to HISTORY, *i.e.*, an entry under history in the common subentry (SAN=1) applies to all other subentries and should not be repeated in the data subentries.~~

Examples:
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HISTORY    (19671119R) Data received from author on tape
           (19680220L) Data entered into library
           (19690411C) AB
           (19691015R) Data on tape ND 1234 from Ribon.
           (19691223)  Proof copy sent to author
           (19701003T) Data converted from SCISRS-I, and checked
                       for agreement with table 3 in Phys. Rev.
                       56, p. 78
           (19721130A) Some errors in data table corrected
           (19721130U) Spelling error in BIB corrected

           (20081123A) SF3: P -> INL
```
This is better (because it is more specific) than
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           (20081123A) REACTION corrected

           (20120728A) ERR-ANALYS added. Data corrected in
                       subentries 3 and 7.
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Example for subentry 1, documenting an alteration in the first subentry and summarizing alterations in data subentries. Details of corrections will be given in subentries 3 and 7.
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           (20120905U) Spelling corrected in subentries 1,5,8.
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Unimportant corrections summarized in subentry 1