

Memo 4C-3/189

30 November 1976

To: Distribution  
From: J.J. Schmidt, H.D. Lemmel + G. Lammer  
Subject: Cinda coverage control system

Reference: Memo 4C-2/75 of 1976/10/19, our Cinda Memo of 1973/12/13

We understand that the Cinda operations performed at NDCC on behalf of the Four Centers include the responsibility for a coverage control system meeting the needs of the cooperating centers, as it used to be the case with the old ZZ entries. We therefore regret that the Cinda coverage control system as described in Memo 4C-2/75 has been programmed without consideration of our requirements expressed in our Cinda Memo of 1973-12-13, which resulted from a careful analysis of the problems involved. The Cinda coverage control system would not serve its purpose for the participating centres if the following features are not added:

1. Handmade YES entries must be accepted and distinguished from automatic ones. Automatically created YES entries may be a help for publications for which no handmade YES entries exist. But in general, we do not find them sufficiently reliable as compared to handmade YES entries.
2. It must be possible to contract a series of ZERO and YES entries into a single entry "COV = covered", e.g. "Phys. Rev. covered from vol. 141 to 188". Only this way it seems possible to have the coverage list sufficiently compact as to be practical.
3. It must be possible to delete and modify existing coverage control entries, possibly including the "R" operation described in item 3.e of our above-mentioned Cinda Memo. For example, it should be possible to modify an existing entry "ref ABC covered from vol. 1 through 98" to the new version "ref ABC covered from vol. 1 through 105". This operation can be expected to be very frequent.

The CINDA Memo quoted above contains in addition comments to a number of less important details which seem to be premature before the more important items mentioned above have been solved. We would very much appreciate it if the above features could be added to the coverage control system as soon as possible; NDS will be prepared to submit then immediately coverage control entries.

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