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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.

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