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Memo CP-D/435

Date: 24 June 2005
To: Distribution
From: O. Schwerer, S. Dunaeva, V. Zerkina
Subject: Common EXFOR master file and Dictionary Transmission 9088

According to Actions A20, A21 of last year's NRDC meeting, NDS has produced a common EXFOR master file which is now available for downloading as described in WP 2004-11.

At the same time, a new dictionary transmission (9088) was produced which can also be downloaded. As in the last transmission 9087, both the "old" and "new" dictionaries are included (compare memo CP-D/432).

Full EXFOR Master Files and Dictionaries and EXFOR TRANS Files can be downloaded from

<http://www-nds.iaea.org/exfor-master/backup/>

with contents like this:

DICTS-2005-07-01.zip	01-Jul-2005	<i>Dictionaries as of 2005-Jul-01</i>
EXFOR-2005-06-16.zip	16-Jun-2005	<i>EXFOR Master File as of 2005-Jun-16</i>
TRANS.0054.zip	15-Jul-2005	<i>EXFOR Trans 0054 (fictitious example)</i>
TRANS.1524.zip	17-Jul-2005	<i>EXFOR Trans 1524 (fictitious example)</i>
exfor-2005-07-18.zip	18-Jul-2005	<i>EXFOR Backup File as of 2005-Jul-18</i>

New versions of the master file, synchronized with dictionaries, will be made available every 3 months. (See WP 2004-11 for more details). By displaying the above web directory sorted by date ("Last modified"), the chronology of updates can easily be followed.

The comparison of the master files was mainly based on comparing the NDS with the NNDC file. The reason is that at NNDC many unilateral corrections and modifications were done which were not made available to the other centers. NDS checked all cases individually and decided whether the NDS or the NNDC version was to be taken. On the other hand, NDS never made unilateral changes to data received from other centers. Therefore, all new or corrected entries properly transmitted to NDS should exist unchanged in the NDS file, and no systematic differences between the NDS file and the originating center's own file exist.

A complete list of all differences found between the NDS and NNDC files, and the decision which version was taken for the common master file, can be found in:

<http://www-nds.iaea.org/exfor-master/x4merge/Results/>

The resulting file is certainly better than any previously existing master file, and all centers are invited to take it over, so that from now on only NDS has to do the regular updates. Anyway, every center still has the option of keeping their own file and updating it with the individual TRANS files (which will also be available through the web page given above), if so desired. However, all retransmissions from now on must be based on the common master file as starting version, to keep the data compatible.

In order not to lose any data and information, and being able to roll-back to the original data of each center, we recommend to all centers to keep an archival version of their own area. We also propose to all centers to send these archives to NDS, where the data will be stored and will always be available.

While this common file can be considered a significant improvement concerning quality and efficient file maintenance, it is understood that further corrections will be needed. E.g., mistakes which are the same in all master files, are not found in such an exercise and need to be corrected in the usual way. Furthermore, all centers are invited to go through the comparison list mentioned above. Should there be cases where the version of an entry adopted for the common master file is considered incorrect by the originating center, a retransmission should be made in the usual way (with brief explanation by e-mail).

As a consequence of the new procedure of data exchange via the central place, we need a new operation on the master file to be introduced, that was not foreseen in the old rules: complete replacement of a whole ENTRY. This procedure was implemented at NDS for the present merging project, and probably will be needed occasionally in the future. This topic will be proposed for discussion at the next NRDC meeting.

The latest TRANS files included from each area are:

1332, 2171, 3116, 4133, A060, B019, C073, D038, E031, F020, G011, J002, L006, M036, O023, P003, R014, S010, T019, V026.

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