

then make long term agreements with the publishers who would agree to their journals being merged into what might be called *Europhysics Review*. Flexibility could be preserved by establishing main categories expected to have an indefinite life, within which were less permanent sections regarded as current specialisations.

Publishing was though a commercial affair and a great deal of study will be necessary to see how best such an integration could take place. There were also problems of principle such as the vexed question of page charges which were a main source of income in the USA. (Presently no page charges are made in *Europhysics Journals* with just one exception.) Much has to be done before the idea can be realized, but it was generally agreed that while discussions went on, a first step should be for the Publications Committee, now that it has put order into much of what exists, to move into a new active phase where it could exercise influence ahead of the event rather than as in the past, act as a form of jury, only considering a new publication after it had appeared and the publisher had made his investment.

Third World

The adjurations of UNESCO did not go unheeded, as attention turned to the particular problems of the distant physicist with limited resources trying to get his work published. It was in noone's interest that double standards should be adopted but it was common experience that papers submitted often did not come up to European norms. It was not just a question of the language being more "broken" than usual so much as an inadequacy in the presentation of the work. Publishers expect to put in more editorial effort on papers coming from the third world but what was often needed was a re-writing or co-authoring effort. This all has to be paid for. Another problem was page charges when these were applied, although a number of journals were prepared to waive them in special circumstances. The supply of additional reprints to the author would help him in dissemination but again the money had to be found from somewhere.

A possible source is UNESCO itself but it is clear that a serious approach to this or any other organization on such a matter could only be made on a concerted basis.

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An International Classification in Physics

J. Depireux

There is no need to convince a scientist in general, and a physicist in particular, of the usefulness of a widely accepted classification for subject matters in his field. Be it for a personal bibliographic search or for automated information retrieval, for exchange of information or when switching from secondary abstracting journals to primary ones, or even when arranging a sequence of papers or just for shelving books in the library, it is clear that an internationally accepted classification would save both effort and time and so money.

Action was taken after it had been resolved at a Board meeting of the ICSU-AB held in Goslar (FRG) in July 1968 that :

"the classification, cross-referencing and indexing practices of the Member Services should be studied in a comparative way by fields".

In order to implement this resolution four major abstracting services : American Institute of Physics, Bulletin Signalétique, Physics Abstracts and Physikalische Berichte united their efforts. Additional help was provided by the Institute of Physics, INSPEC, the IUPAP, etc. The European Physical

Society through its specialized seminars and its Publications Committee has actively contributed to establishing the final version of this classification.

The final version is the result of many years of comparisons, consultations and compromises. It is believed by its many authors to be highly operational and will probably need no major revisions in the near future ; a provisional version (1975) has already been put to work, and the final version will be published for ICSU-AB by INSPEC in April of this year. After that minor changes will still be accepted

but, in order to avoid undue perturbations, they will be implemented on a three-year basis only.

Such a tool is only useful if it is widely known and used. It is to be hoped that some practical arrangement will be found to circulate a "scaled-down" version of it in one of the future issues of *Europhysics News*.

The whole of Physics is divided into ten chapters with the headings shown in the accompanying table. Chapters 0 to 7 cover the core of Physics proper whilst 8 and 9 deal with interdisciplinary fields.

- 0 *General (Education, History, Mathematical methods, Classical and Quantitative physics, Statistical physics, Measurement science*
- 1 *Elementary Particles and Fields*
- 2 *Nuclear Physics*
- 3 *Atomic and Molecular Physics*
- 4 *Classical Areas of Phenomenology (Electricity and magnetism ; Optics ; Acoustics ; Heat flow, Mechanics, Fluid dynamics)*
- 5 *Fluids, Plasmas and Electric Discharges*
- 6 *Condensed Matter : Structure, Mechanical and Thermal Properties*
- 7 *Condensed Matter : Electronic Structure, Electrical, Magnetic and Optical Properties*
- 8 *Cross-disciplinary Physics (Materials science, Physical chemistry, Biophysics)*
- 9 *Geophysics, Astronomy and Astrophysics*