

Authors are not provided with proof copies unless they request them. Abstracts of all articles are typeset in the Standard Generalised Mark-up Language (SGML) by the printers and then converted by the desk editors into ESP-LaTeX for uploading.

The future will possibly see some linking of usage to payment and the conversion of the 20% of articles submitted non-electronically into electronic versions to give a truly 100% electronic journal. It is not clear whether at this stage the author supplied articles which have been accepted should be available before publication. They would be, in principle, be available sooner and this could be seen to be unfair. Moreover, they are often already accessible elsewhere via a preprint server, albeit usually in a different form since the publishing process generally adds some value to all texts, and a significant amount to the 50% that are modified as a result of refereeing.

Perhaps the most exciting development is the ability to integrate multimedia simulations

Nuclear Physics Electronic

Further information/help

WWW: homepage at <http://www.nucphys.nl>

Email delivery: email message with "help" in subject line to npa-serv@npe.nucphys.nl or npb-serv@npe.nucphys.nl or npbps-serv@npe.nucphys.nl

www.nucphys.nl = 192.87.39.8

of say an experiment, thereby going substantially beyond what a conventional printed journal can offer. The electronic version will thus remain for the foreseeable future as a complementary but valuable service to subscribers, providing more than say distribution of archived issues on compact discs (CD-ROMs). Some publishers are adopting the latter route, notwithstanding the disadvantage that some of today's CD-ROMs may be unreadable in a few years time if computer operating systems become incompatible with CD software.

ONLINE HOSTS

INSPEC and Physics Briefs to Merge

In terms of the number of databases offered in the field of science and technology, STN International with service centres in Germany (at the Fachinformationszentrum Karlsruhe – FIZ), Japan and the USA is now equal in size to the other largest host of online information (the number of databases will rise from 180 at the end of 1993 to 207 by the end of this year). In terms of the total time users are connected online, STN is the second largest host and is well known to physicists as the supplier of *Physics Briefs* which is produced by FIZ. Following an agreement with the UK's Institution of Electrical Engineers (IEE) to collaborate in the joint production of the *INSPEC* database, FIZ will stop producing *Physics Briefs* as a separate product at the end of 1994. FIZ estimates that it will be contributing about 20% of entries to the enlarged *INSPEC* database (mostly in physics and physics-related topics).

Bernward Jenschke, who is responsible for marketing at FIZ Karlsruhe, says that the decision to merge the two was the main outcome of a project that supplied *Physics Briefs* on-line to about 40 institutes and universities in Germany for a fixed price of DM 4500.– per annum (the three-year project ends at the end of 1994). Physicists have always been interested in the peripheral and

applied fields covered by *INSPEC*, and Germany's physicists felt that it was pointless to continue operating two databases that had a large number of duplicate records (about 60% for the 1990-91 period — equivalent to about 80 000 records each year). The plan is to run a duplication check on the online records of *INSPEC* (which began in 1969) and *Physics Briefs* (which began in 1979) and to transfer non-duplicates to *INSPEC* by the end of this year. From then on only the enlarged *INSPEC* database will be produced.

The IEE has not yet decided if the fixed pricing scheme will continue in Germany (it seems likely that it will, at least for the pilot group of physics institutes, but an indication of the price is not available). Other institutes as well as centres elsewhere pay according to usage, with academic sites benefiting from an 80% reduction. The trend is clearly towards fixed pricing and STN's main difficulty is to obtain the agreement of all its approximately 60 database suppliers so that universities and the like can be offered a fixed price for a package comprising the complete set of 207 databases. The preferred model (which is already operating for a mathematical database) is to offer a fixed price for online access, and to charge a small supplement for the printed version (it would come with a compact disc version).

Commenting on the impact of new technology, Dr. Jentsche felt that STN could offer browseable, user-friendly databases via Internet (possibly using World-Wide Web) which handle graphics and complicated formulae. The problem is that while the lines into Karlsruhe have been upgraded recently to 1 Gbyte/s, most institutes (and industry if it is connected) are still working at 9.6 kB/s. The increased availability of ISDN lines working at 64 kB/s does not greatly improve the situation as it will still take a minute to download a useful image. The only effective solution is a general improvement in networking capacity.

STN celebrated its 10th anniversary last year.



JOURNALS & PROCEEDINGS

Classical & Quantum Gravity Goes Online

Classical & Quantum Gravity published monthly has gone online as a 100% electronic journal in the sense that articles which are not submitted in TeX or LaTeX are converted by the publishers (IOPP). Anyone can browse tables of contents and search a database of articles via the IOPP WWW homepage at <http://www.ioppublishing.com> where www.ioppublishing.com = 193.131.119.1. There are a few hundred subscriber sites whose staff have access authorisation based on Internet addresses. Registered users can download TeX or LaTeX files and figures in GIF or Encapsulated PostScript (EPS) formats. If your institute subscribes to the journal you can register as a user by filling in a form available by anonymous ftp at <ftp://ioppublishing.com/pub> (where <ftp://ioppublishing.com> = 193.61.87.2). Telephone +44-117-929 74 81 or email to custer@ioppublishing.co.uk for information.

US Plans Well Advanced

The July/August issue of *Computers in Physics* published by the American Institute of Physics (AIP) describes how the AIP's *Applied Physics Letters* will be available online in January 1995 as *APL Online*. It will use the Online Computer Library Center's EJO server system and the Guidon client software adopted by *Electronics Letters Online* (subscribers will be mailed a copy of Guidon for PC, Mac or X-Windows). Texts will be translated from files generated in a proprietary format by AIP's established in-house electronic composition system to Standard Generalized Markup Language (SGML) tagged files using the ISO12083 Document Type Definition standard that has been endorsed by EPS, AIP and the American Physical Society (APS). Line figures will be in TIFF and photos in the Joint Photographic Experts Group (JPEG) format.

ISO12083, hitherto available as a draft, has been released very recently (contact national ISO agents for information) as a definitive standard as a printed version. A diskette version is planned. This will be the first time that the International Standards Organization has provided a diskette.

The much-heralded launch by the APS of *Physics Review Letters Online* has been delayed by a few months to mid-1995. There will be two server sites providing user access and documents will be SGML-tagged. The Optical Society of America (OSA), which is collaborating closely with the APS and the AIP, aims to have early notices (25 pages abstracts) of all articles published in OSA journals available via Internet. It is also looking at putting *Optics Letters* online. ➤

Classical and Quantum Gravity

INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL OF OPTOELECTRONICS

Photonics HEAVY ION
Science PHYSICS
News

The same issue of *Computers in Physics* contains a very interesting article by Paul Ginsparg from the Los Alamos National Laboratory describing the development of LANL's 14 world-famous electronic preprint servers.

Springer Online Preview Service

Springer-Verlag has joined the growing number of publishers who offer a contents alerting service by Internet. The Springer Journals Preview Service makes available the tables of contents (TOCs) and bibliographies/abstracts of about 50 Springer journals (including *Zeit. für Physik*). Files are stored in standard ASCII and tagged according to BRS Medline conventions to allow browsing and importing into personal files. TOCs are free of charge and will be automatically downloaded as they become available (to subscribe, send an email to em-helpdesk@springer.de with "SUBSCRIBE TOC code" as the message) where code refers to a particular journal (the list is available by sending the message "LISTJOURNALS"). To obtain Biblio-Abstracts one needs to register using a form available by sending the message "ORDER-FORM"; payment is by credit card. Telephone +48-6221-48 73 09 or email em-helpdesk@springer.de for information.

New Journals

– *Photonics Science News* has been launched by Gordon and Breach.
– *International Journal of Optics* published by Taylor & Francis has absorbed *Optical Computing & Processing* and changed format.

EC DATABASES

Access Simplified

With the specific R. & D. programmes in the European Union's 4th Framework in the process of being launched, it is perhaps the time to start thinking about accessing the relevant information on-line. The procedures have become much easier.

General information: The EC's Host Organization (ECHO) on-line services is now described in several pages on the World-Wide Web at <http://www.echo.lu> where echo.lu = 193.168.64.2 But do not expect too much: there is little detailed information and no direct access to the databases. (Telephone +352 34 98 12 01 for the ECHO Help Desk).
Database access: To make life much easier, since 1 September ECHO provides full access to the nine CORDIS (Community Research and Development Information Service) databases. The RTD-NEWS, RTD-PROGRAMMES and RTD-PROJECTS databases contain a large amount of information about the specific programmes (announcements of calls for proposals, deadlines, work programmes, etc.).

Registration: To access the CORDIS databases you need to be registered. This can now be done directly by Internet in addition to the original dial-up and network options. Here are the details:

– *Internet:* telnet to echo.lu (echo.lu = 158.64.1.51) and at the prompt, if you are not yet registered type the public access code "ECHO" and follow the prompts to register using the on-line registration form. When it is complete you will be immediately provided with a password (documentation will be sent

– *Acta Physica Hungarica* that covered all fields in physics will now be published by the Hungarian Academy of Sciences under the title *Heavy Ion Physics (Acta Physica Hungarica New Series)*. There will be two volumes of four issues (price \$US 80.– per volume) each year devoted to theoretical and experimental aspects, especially nucleus-nucleus reactions, nucleus-atom collisions, hadronic matter under extreme conditions, quark physics, and heavy-ion induced fusion. By issuing a new series the existing subscriber list can be maintained.

Professor István Lovas, the Editor-in-Chief from the Department of Theoretical Physics, Kossuth Lajos University, Bem tér 18/c, H-4026 Debrecen (fax: +36-52-41 61 81; lovas@rmki.kfki.hu) writes to say that rejuvenation of *Acta Physica Hungarica* as a specialized topical journal was prompted by the rapid growth in the number of articles devoted to heavy-ion physics brought about increased activities at several, new nuclear physics facilities. Many distinguished physicists have agreed to serve on the Editorial Board.

Europhysics Letters Now Accepts Comments

Robert Balian, the Editor-in-Chief of *Europhysics Letters*, writes to say that it now the journal's policy to publish Comments on previously published Letters to make more accessible the lively interchange of ideas going on "behind the scenes" so to speak (the first Comment was published a few years ago, but as an exceptional case). A

submitted Comment is sent to the author/s of the original Letter to allow a Reply. The normal referring procedure applies before the Comment and any Reply are published (in the same issue if both exist).

Conference Proceedings Go Online

In a pilot experiment, CERN has made available on its electronic preprint server roughly 60% of the presentations at this year's 27th International Conference on High-Energy Physics (ICHEP; Glasgow, 21-27 July 1994) — the 27th "Rochester" conference. This is the first time that something like this has been done in physics. Authors were asked to submit electronic files (about 50% did this, mostly as TeX files, with a few in PostScript and some in Word). There was also a booth at the conference where papers could be scanned to give PostScript files. Non-PostScript files were "printed" in PostScript and all the files was then loaded on the server. To reduce disk space, some of the files have been converted to Tagged Image File Format (TIFF). The server — called the CERN Physics Information Service — is on WWW at <http://preprints.cern.ch> where preprints.cern.ch = 128.141.202.53. It is accessible via the CERN WWW homepage at <http://info.cern.ch> where info.cern.ch = 128.141.201.214 and gives details of how PostScript and TIFF files can be read by a client.

As the service was provided as a pilot, CERN made no special effort to obtain the remaining 40% of texts. This is the responsibility of the publishers of the (printed) conference proceedings.

EC FRAMEWORK PROGRAMMES

First Notice of BRITE/EURAM Call

Following the adoption by the Council of Ministers of the specific programme for materials and technological development in the field of industrial and materials technologies (BRITE/EURAM III) on 27 July, the European Commission has announced a first notice of calls for proposals. Information on preparing proposals can be sought, but proposals should be sent after the official call on 15 December 1994 (the deadline is 15 March 1995). For a detailed information package, contact: EC, DG-XII/C, 200, rue de la Loi, B-1049 Brussels (tel.: +32-2-295 23 45; fax: +32-2-295 80 46).

Institutional Fellows Call

The last selection round for institutional fellows in the 3rd Framework's Human Capital and Mobility programme has been announced. The EC invites young scientists to apply for mainly postdoc fellowships at institutes listed in the *Off. J. S* 177 of 15 September 1994. The institutes themselves must send their choices to the EC by 15 December for a first selection. There will be further selections until all the places are filled. For information, contact J. Vogelgesang, EC, DG-XX/G-1, Brussels (fax.: +32-2-296 32 70). The list is currently available by ftp at 128.141.2.4 as [ec.institutes.notebook](ftp://ec.institutes.notebook) in the directory [ecnews.191](ftp://ecnews.191) (logon = "epnews"; password = "peter2").

by normal mail). If you already have your password then use it at the first prompt and you are prompted into the ECHO Main Menu and from it to the CORDIS Database Selection menu.

– *Direct dialling via a modem:* use a terminal emulator, dial +352420347 and proceed as above at the prompt.

– *Via packet switching data networks (PSDN/PSS/PAD)* which may be cheaper than direct dialling: NUA = 270448112 (with prefix 0 except in UK where it is 9) and proceed as above at the prompt.

On-line Commission Directory

A new on-line database called IDEA (International Directory of European Administrations) is being set up. It includes very useful details of European Commission officials (i.e., the *Directory of the European Commission* which can be ordered from EUR-OP sales agents – telephone +325 499 28 24 55 for information). In its pilot phase, IDEA will be available on the ECHO host (see above) free of charge for a few months (probably under a new the rubric on the ECHO Main Menu.) It will then move to the commercially oriented EUROBASES host which charges for access. (Telephone +32-2-295 00 01 for the EUROBASES Help Desk).

JOBS POSITIONS BY INTERNET

In following up on the listing of databases on Internet offering details of job positions (August 1994), we have not yet been able to make a thorough survey of national as opposed to international databases. For example, Manuela Arata writes to say that the essentially Italian **Sportello Giovani** database of jobs and fellowships (which was supported as an accompanying measure by the European Union) can now be accessed by telnet at infmgli.ge. infmgli.ge with username = "giovani".