

**REPORT OF THE EIGHTH MEETING OF
THE COMMITTEE ON
ELECTRONIC INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION (CEIC)
OF THE INTERNATIONAL MATHEMATICAL UNION
HELD AT UNIVERSITÉ JOSEPH FOURIER
GRENOBLE, FRANCE MARCH 11–13, 2005**

Membership and Participation. Jonathan Borwein (Canada), Pierre Bérard (France), John Ewing (USA), Rolf Jeltsch (Switzerland), Alejandro Jofre (Chile), Martin Grötschel (Germany), Peter Michor (Austria), David Morrison (USA), Alf van der Poorten (Australia); John Ball (UK, President of the IMU).
In attendance (on March 12): Michael Doob (Canada), Thierry Bouche (France).
The committee was materially assisted by John Ball’s participation on March 11.
Regrets: David Mumford (USA).

0.1. The meeting was preceded by a dinner on the evening of March 10 for early arrivers, and a brief Workshop on Digitization on the morning of March 11. The CEIC met on Friday, March 11 (14:00) and through Sunday, March 13 with the meeting closing at 12:10.

0.2. **Summary.** After hearing and discussing status reports on a variety of ongoing projects of the CEIC and on other matters of interest to the CEIC the Committee promptly identified key items for more detailed consideration. In that context sub-groups of the Committee carefully drafted agreed Committee statements. Members of the Committee were designated to advance the respective tasks to detailed and urgent timelines.

1. OPENING DISCUSSION

The Chair summarized the current and future initiatives:

- The Federated World Directory of Mathematicians (FWDM)
- Best Practices statements
- IMU on the Web
- WDML and other Digitization Activities: It was agreed that Digitization needs a vision statement and that such a statement must emphasize and explain the benefits of the ‘moving wall’ for making digitized journal materials readily accessible. It was also noted that it is critical to establish a working registry of digitized materials, and of plans and proposals for digitization projects.

Typeset March 25, 2005.
Version 1.0 March 25, 2005.

- CEIC 2006–2010. The Committee briefly discussed what its future should be and what it might recommend in that respect to the EC. It was also noted that it had been agreed to run a special session preceding the Mainz joint meeting in June 2005; the Committee suggested a suitable program.
- It was suggested that the *Mathematik DE* outreach project (Berend et al) was valuable and it was recommended to John Ball to offer financial support for a meeting at Mainz.
- IMU Web Watch: In the course of the discussion allusion was made to the pages ‘Mathematics Online’ <http://www.mth.kcl.ac.uk/MAO/Home.html> constructed by Brian Davies. PM will write to suggest a link to EMIS and to discuss related issues.

1.1. **FWDM.** JMB provided a report on progress and a discussion of next steps. It was agreed the activity is worth further effort and that it should be showcased at the quadrennial Assembly in Spain. The interface will be polished between now and June. A disclaimer and FAQ will be added. Participating organizations will be requested to supply logos and the like so that their support and participation can be highlighted. See <http://www.cs.dal.ca/ddrive/fwdm> .

1.2. **IMU on the Web.** Following brief comments from AvdP the Committee agreed the activity is worth pursuing (particularly given that AvdP agreed to continue as editor for the next year). It was agreed that the FWDM would be a suitable topic for the immediately coming up issue, IMU-Net 10, March 1, 2005.

1.3. **IMU Web Watch.** JMB reminded the Committee of details of the proposal. It was agreed that in the first instance JMB and MG will recommend activities shared between the IMU and the MAA, but independently of the CEIC.

2. ACTIVITIES

2.1. **Digitization Initiatives.** JE reported in some detail on progress in North America. In summary: MSRI is applying to the Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation for a grant to digitize a large collection of older mathematical literature, as part of a world-wide effort to create a world digital mathematical library. The Moore Foundation has made a planning grant that includes an international workshop to finalize standards for this project, and to ensure that it is integrated with the international effort. The workshop is scheduled for Friday, April 15 (9:00) — Sunday, April 17 (noon), at MSRI in Berkeley. The grant also includes resources to digitize the Bulletin of the American Mathematical Society from its origin in 1888, and to prepare a business plan for future activities.

In subsequent discussion it was agreed that a statement on the vision of the WDML was a first priority. Indeed, the CEIC has had difficulty in constructing a detailed best practice statement, leading to understandable grumbling about seeming lack of progress. In that context it seemed best first to step back and to concentrate on framing an overall vision statement that all projects could adopt in whole, or at least in part.

2.2. **Best Practice Documents.** Following general discussion the Committee trifurcated into working groups designated to write on:

- (1) Digitization and Registry (PB, JE, DM; MD and TB);
- (2) The publication process: authors, editors and publishers (AvdP, AJ, RJ);

(3) Mandate of the CEIC (JMB, MG, PM).

After extensive discussion of the draft documents it was agreed that rough drafts of items (1) and (3) be circulated within the working group by March 20 and that the full Committee see a near final draft by April 1, 2005 so that the documents for item (1) become available for the MSRI Meeting and both eventually for the EC. In the case of (2) it is hoped that a draft related IMU on the Web item 'Advice to young authors' be circulated by April 1, eventually to be transformed into a suitable CEIC BP statement.

3. CONCLUDING DECISIONS

3.1. Future of the CEIC Mandate. The Committee believes strongly that there should be a near complete rollover of membership, perhaps so staged (say at two-year intervals) as to guarantee appropriate continuity. To assist that process, members were requested to prepare potential advice to the EC (by April 30, 2005) as to possible new members, say consisting of names and contact details accompanied by a brief two or three paragraph citation. Effort will be made to assist the EC to become enabled to appoint members providing a suitable mix of ages, credentials and skill sets. It was agreed that several of the potential new members may be invited to attend the 2006 CEIC Meeting.

3.2. Teleconferencing. JE and JMB will design a protocol for teleconferencing with internet use say four times a year and when needed.

3.3. Registry. It was agreed that MR and Zbl be requested to construct a registry of digitized journals and anticipated projects in cooperation with the CEIC and that JMB formally approach the respective executive editors Kevin Clancy and Bernd Wegner.

3.4. Next Meeting. The CEIC hopes to meet preferably February 25–27, 2006 lacking that, April 1–3, at a time and place partially coinciding with a meeting of the EC.

Primary tasks of that meeting will be to prepare for the GA at Santiago de Compostella and of course for the immediately following meeting with the EC.

3.5. Other Business. PB will attend the Tunis meeting (this matter will be a 2006 agenda item).

In other discussion members noted that the Committee needs to return to IP issues, privacy considerations, and to the matter of open access — in that matter inter alia to emphasize that this is not the same thing as 'author pays', but is rather the matter of freeing journal content after an appropriate, say five year, period when it plainly has returned the value that can reasonably be expected by its publishers and copyright owners;

The CEIC might write a piece addressing that what is good for dissemination of research does not necessarily take account of archival needs nor vice versa. This matter is noted as a 2006 agenda item.

Members acknowledged that while much of Math-Net has been rendered obsolete by Google and Yahoo, finding and organizing mathematics content on the web is still a large task and a serious need.