Conclusion from the Panel #5 discussion on

Business models, libraries, publishers

Panel #5 during the June 2012 IMU/NAS Digital Math Library symposium; which took place Saturday, June 2, 10:30 am to 12:00 pm at the NAS building in Washington, D.C

The panelists were:

Rachel Frick, Digital Library Federation Joshua Gans, U of Toronto Thomas Hempfling, Birkhauser/Springer Marek Niezgodka, Polish Digital Mathematics Library David Tranah, Cambridge U Press

The **moderator** was:

Philippe Tondeur, U of Illinois (UIUC)

Summary and conclusion of Panel #5:

A significant amount of legacy material is already digitized, each repository operating with its own business model, and even more alternatives were discussed with imagination by the panelists, and with varying degrees of ambition and scope. Their contributions are attached as submitted, and the effort of the authors is gratefully acknowledged.

What is doable by IMU/CEIC, using the digitization work already in place?

The digitized materials sit in separate repositories with variable access, both technical and economical. What is lacking and where the IMU might find its proper role is an investment in efforts to develop and maintain an access infrastructure, using the highly functional access portals ZBMATH and MathSciNet. It should include access to arXiv, as well as other digital repositories, perhaps even math blogs, an interesting new feature of research in the mathematical sciences.

One challenge is that the existing digital repositories use different standards for data and metadata, and these standards moreover are not stable over time. The earlier recommendations of the CEIC in this respect have largely been ignored. Interoperability of these data for the proposed access infrastructure is a critical feature.

The proposed access infrastructure will require significant start-up funding, and a modest but indispensable long-term income stream for maintenance and upgrading of the system.