

manual must contain recommendations for use with desk-top systems capable of producing copy of type-set quality. It is hoped that a second draft will be discussed at a meeting of editors early in 1988 and that an agreed version will be available at the General Assembly.

ICSTI

The Officers of the IAU have decided that the IAU should, for the time being, no longer participate in the activities of the International Council for Scientific and Technical Information (ICSTI) with effect from 1 January 1988. ICSTI was established in June 1984 as the successor to the Abstracting Board of the International Council of Scientific Unions (ICSU AB). Its activities are of general interest to astronomy and include the revision of the international classification system for physics and the preparation of a directory of numerical databases, but at present the value to the IAU of membership does not match the costs for dues and attendance at the annual meeting. Astronomy and Astrophysics Abstracts is a member of ICSTI.

UNION LISTS AND OTHER PUBLICATIONS

A compilation of the serial holdings of 14 astronomy collections in the USA was prepared by J. A. Lola (Yerkes Observatory) and a list for the United Kingdom was prepared by A. R. Macdonald (Royal Observatory, Edinburgh). The guide to information services in astronomy by Rey (1983) is under revision. Various lists of observatories were published by Howse (1986) and Vercoutter (1986). An English-Chinese Dictionary of Astronomy containing 16000 terms and seven lists of specialised terms was published in China in 1986, and the multilingual dictionary that is being prepared by J. Kleczek is in press.

OTHER MATTERS

The problems caused by the increases in the costs of journals and books have been exacerbated for many libraries by reductions in budgets and by the extra costs of providing new on-line services. As a consequence, subscriptions to many journals, particularly the less heavily used smaller journals, including translations from other languages into English, are liable to be cancelled, and hence the viability of such journals is in doubt. The Commission may wish to consider whether it could take any action that might alleviate these problems. The Commission also needs to follow up the meeting that was held in Delhi (Trans. IAU 19B, 100) to consider the problems of "developing astronomical institutions". These need access to past and current literature and to the new information-retrieval services if they are to carry out their programmes effectively. It is hoped that it will be possible for such institutions to be represented at IAU Colloquium No. 110 and that better cooperative arrangements may be established as a consequence of the discussions at the meeting.

The programme of the meetings of the Commission at Baltimore will need to be very extensive in order to cover adequately all of the many topics discussed in this report as well as others that for various reasons have not been mentioned. It is clear that the increased activity in astronomical-data topics that has taken place in recent years is about to be matched by a corresponding increase in activity in the other fields of concern to the Commission. It is of interest to note that some of these topics, such as designation and information retrieval techniques, are not only of concern to all of the members of the Commission but that their importance is being recognized by a much higher proportion of the astronomical community. I would like to conclude my report by thanking all those who have contributed to this report and to the activities of the Commission during this period.