

### 3.5 Centro de Datos Astronomicos, Argentina (by E.F. Arias)

The Centro de Datos Astronomicos Argentina (CDA) is installed at the Facultad de Ciencias Astronomicas y Geofisicas de La Plata, Argentina. It works under the responsibility of two local astronomers, Dr. Elisa Felicitas Arias and Lic. Horacio Luis Tignanelli. It was created by means of an agreement between the Universidad Nacional de La Plata and the Strasbourg Stellar Data Centre. The CDA distributes astronomical data to all Argentine observatories. It also provides on request information to some South American colleagues. Periodically the CDA sends by e-mail information bulletins to Argentine users.

## 4. REPORTS FROM WORKING GROUPS AND TASK GROUPS

Before reporting on the activity of the Commission's WGs and TGs I would mention the activity of two WGs of two other commissions that receive our support. The first is the *WG on "Radioastronomical Databases"* (Commission 40), chaired by Dr. H. Andernach, IAC. This WG held its first WG meeting (ESO-OAT Workshop in Trieste in April 1993). Recommendations emerged on electronic availability of published data, on the educational needs for the age of "Network Astronomy", the preparation of a master index of all machine-readable astronomical catalogues, and the nomenclature of radio sources. Electronic access to radio source catalogues has been vastly improved by the WG: 45 tables (~420,000 entries) are now searchable on-line in the "Einstein On-line Service" and 40 more tables (~80,000 entries) are in the waiting list. With Commissions 5 and 29 it is proposed to hold an "Interdisciplinary Discussion on the Status of Archiving of Astronomical Data" at the GA in 1994.

The second is the *WG on Spectroscopic Data Archives*, chaired by Dr. E. Griffin, which was established in mid-1992, its *raison d'être* having been enshrined in IAU Resolution C13 (1991). The 12 members come from all continents except Antarctica; most are research astronomers who are personally committed to the benefits of archiving, and who try to encourage, stimulate, rationalize and sometimes help organise suitable archiving policies in all observatories and institutions. The WG took an active part in various workshop meetings both in Europe and the USA and was especially in evidence at the workshop in Trieste (April 1993), where its own EC grant helped support the attendance of 19 people. The WG is currently tackling the cataloguing of spectroscopic plates and is considering the idea of putting all such plates in one place as a long-term safeguard.

The *Astronomy Thesaurus Task Group*, headed by Mrs. Robyn Shobbrook, has published an astronomical thesaurus. Its main aim is to standardize the terminology for the purposes of aiding unambiguous library cataloguing and more precise recall of data from computer databases. The thesaurus can be ordered directly from Mrs. R. Shobbrook, Anglo-Australian Observatory, Epping Laboratory, P.O. Box 296, 296 Epping N.S.W. 2121, Australia.

The *WG on Libraries*, co-chaired by Dr. W.H. Warren and Mrs. B. Corbin, is now planning a conference on Library and Information Services in Astronomy (LISA II)