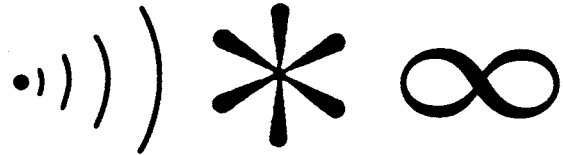


p·a·m

physics astronomy math



P-A-M BULLETIN

Vol. 23, No. 1

August 1995

ISSN 1063-9136

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

Diane Fortner

dfortner@library.berkeley.edu

P-A-M in Montreal

Attendance and spirits were “up”, and we all fared rather well at the SLA 86th Annual Conference in Montreal, Quebec this June. We arrived just in time to compete for rooms with the extensive Grand Prix contingency, and we disassembled our information booths and signs as other willingly-huddled small assemblies, such as the Speakers Exchange Group, arrived to set theirs up. Everywhere our ears curled in delight to the beautiful intonations of French, and, before we left for home, some of the more impressive (or more fun!) of us were beginning to speak like Inspector Clousseau ourselves. The city of reportedly 3 million nestles next to the St. Lawrence River and wraps-around a highly distinct green hill called Mt. Royal. Built for winter but loving the warm spring, Montreal has both street-level outdoor cafes and shops as

well as an intricate underground city connected by a fast, efficient Metro railway system. In the cold, one need never leave home without it. Begun by fur trapping business men, the city flag holds insignias from France, England, Ireland, and Scotland.

PAM remained a presence in the daily conference proceedings, and you should learn more about this in this bulletin issue’s contributed articles. We celebrated our 20th Anniversary, almost burning down the Sheraton. Actually, PAM was not the culprit. But the anniversary party was interrupted about 10 PM by a fire alarm, stemming from a fire in a laundry room. The hotel was ordered evacuated. However, David, with his usual aplomb, merely adjourned the party to a nearby uptownish bar.

Plans for 1995/96 include launching the *PAM Bulletin* (PAMB-o?) in electronic format, thanks to the enthusiasm of the

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Bulletin Editors, Thurston Miller and Irene Laursen and to David's willingness to provide a "home" for our ejo (ebul?), an SGML server. Entrepreneurs though we are, the print bulletin will continue as well.

As a result of discussions at the conference, I have written a letter on behalf of PAM to OCLC regarding their electronic journal online service and our interest in IP address security access and use-data statistics.

Officers are now in-place, and committees are filled to the brim. JoAnne Goode, who initiated PAMNet, is our Chair-elect, and Robert Seed, University of Pennsylvania, is PAM Secretary. Robert (Pat) Allen, Purdue, will continue as Treasurer. Please see a full listing of officers and committee chairs in this issue.

I look forward to working with you this year as PAM Chair. Feel free to contact me or any member of the executive board (Chair, Chair-elect, Past-Chair, Secretary, Treasurer), any committee chair, or the bulletin editors with ideas, questions, even well-intentioned complaints. We will listen. ↵

PAM Bulletin Online?

A sample set of FALSE pages of the PAM Bulletin are available for commenting.

The URLs are (CAPITALIZATION is important.)
GIF <http://www.library.yale.edu/scilib/p1.GIF>
JPEG <http://www.library.yale.edu/scilib/p1.jpeg>
JPEG <http://www.library.yale.edu/scilib/p2.jpeg>
JPEG <http://www.library.yale.edu/scilib/p3.jpeg>

PAM BULLETIN

The *PAM Bulletin* is published by the Physics-Astronomy-Mathematics Division of the Special Libraries Association. The *Bulletin* is issued four times a year: August, November, February, and May. Articles should be emailed to the Bulletin Editor:

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DEADLINE FOR NEXT ISSUE NOVEMBER 15, 1995

Subscriptions are free to PAM members and retired PAM members. Non-member subscriptions cost \$9.00 per year. Checks should be made payable to PAM-SLA. Claims for missing issues will be honored within 6 months for an address in continental North America and within 12 months for all other addresses. Subscription requests and claims are handled by the Assistant Editor:

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ACCESSING PAMNET

PAMnet is a listserv discussion group for librarians/information specialists working in the areas of physics, astronomy and mathematics. It was originally set up for the members of the PAM Division of SLA, but membership in SLA/PAM is not a requirement for subscribing to PAMnet. There is no charge for PAMnet.

To subscribe send an e-mail message to:

listserver@listserver.lib.muohio.edu
In the body of the message type:

SUB SLA-PAM (your name)

The listserv software extracts your e-mail address from the header of your message and adds your name exactly as you have written it in your message to the listing of names of PAMnet subscribers. Do not put your e-mail address in your message or it will be included as part of your name on the name list. The subject line of your message may be left blank since the listserv does not take any information from it.

To post messages on SLA-PAM, send mail to
sla-pam@listserver.lib.
muohio.edu

exactly as if you were sending a message to a person. The listserv then automatically distributes your message to everyone on the PAMnet list.

Contact Joanne Goode, GoodeJM@muohio.edu, if you have questions about subscribing, signing off, etc. ↵

ASTRONOMY NEWS

Compiled by
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Astronomy Roundtable Report

Astronomy librarians, and other interested PAM members, met on Monday, 12 June 1995, at the 86th Annual Special Libraries Association Conference in Montreal. Although I forgot to get an exact count of all participants, I can attest that the room was full!

PAM Home Page

Kathleen Robertson described this site which attempts to provide an easy locator for identifying WWW resources for the disciplines that are the focus of our Division. She is maintaining the site and if you know of any URLs which would be of interest to the PAM Division contact her at: roberts@uhifa.IFA.Hawaii.edu. The URL address is: <http://galileo.ifa.hawaii.edu/pamnet/pamnet.html>

Ariel

Kathleen Robertson also proposed forming a consortium in order to purchase the Ariel document scanning/transmission package at a reduced price. This device scans a document to a file and then the file can be sent via the Internet. If you have an interest in participating in this consortium please contact Kathleen at the above e-mail address.

Electronic Preprints

Ellen Boulton led a discussion on services offering full-text preprints via ftp or the WWW, copyright issues, and a summary of changes related to an expected increase in both the electronic availability of preprints and the electronic publication of journals. For more information contact her at: library@annie.cv.nrao.edu

LISA II Meeting

Brenda Corbin reported on the 2nd Libraries and Information Services in Astronomy (LISA) Conference held in Garching, Germany this May. All who attended felt it was a great success and plans are in the works for LISA III. Colloquium program, abstracts and some full papers are up on the web at this address: <http://http.hq.eso.org/eso-homepage.html>

Weaving the Astronomy Web

Jane Holmquist was the only librarian who attended and presented a paper at the first international meeting devoted to the use of the World Wide Web within the astronomical community. The meeting was held 6-7 April 1995, at the Strasbourg Observatory in France. The proceedings can be found at this address: <http://cdsweb.u-strasbg.fr/waw/proceedings.html>

Astrophysical Data System

Abstract and Article Services and Simbad

Joyce Watson was unable to attend but sent along handouts and updates on these services. The U.S. Home Page for Simbad can be found on <http://hea-www.harvard.edu/SIMBAD/simbad.home.html> This contains links to the Strasbourg home page which is extensive including catalog access, the tables and abstracts that are now available for *Astronomy and Astrophysics*, *A&A Supplement*, and the Star*s Family to name a few.

ADS also continues to expand rapidly. Whole text access includes *ApJ Letters*, *ApJ online*, and will soon include *AJ* and the *Revista Mexicana*. Discussions with other publishers are also in progress. They are also making a start to include selected reference books and historical journals online.

Joyce is planning on attending the ADASS '95 meeting to be held this fall in Tucson and would like as many of us as possible to send her our ideas on electronic preprints. One of the special topics listed at this meeting is "Electronic Information Systems and Services" and Peter Boyce has been invited to talk on the AAS Electronic Publication Program You can contact her at: jwatson@cfa.harvard.edu. She would also like us to attend if possible.

Multi-lingual Supplement to the Astronomy Thesaurus and Navigating the World Wide Web

Handouts with updates on the

continued on page 4

Thesaurus were sent along by Robyn Shobbrook. Liz Bryson sent along handouts on getting around the Web, as well as addresses of sites of particular interest to astronomy librarians.

Other Astronomy News:

◆ Marlene Cummins reported on April 19 on PAMNET that the March issue of the *AAS Newsletter* contained several items of interest to astronomy librarians.

On p. 7, the AAS council approved the posting of bitmapped images of AAS Journals more than one year old, by ADS.

On page 8 is the Summary

Report of the Management Plan Committee for the AAS Journals which recommends, among other things, a model for pricing electronic journals separately and which includes site licenses for libraries, the price being dependent upon the number of concurrent users.

Page 11-12 discusses the demo of the electronic *ApJ Letters* which took place at the most recent AAS meeting. If you want to look at it yourself...


<http://aas.org/Epubs/eapjl/v435/toc.html>

◆ Liz Bryson has compiled a bibliography of articles on altitude exposure. If you would like to

check them out or have articles you'd like to add to her list you can take a look at the citations she's already compiled on her home page CFHT Library Services.

<http://www.cfht.hawaii.edu/~bryson/library.html>

◆ Robert Atkinson reports that if you have been trying to get the 1995 Physics and Astronomy Classification Scheme (PACS) over the Web from AIP, you have probably noticed that the link on their Web page isn't working the address has changed to:

<http://publish.aps.org/PACS/pacsgen.htmlmail> 

PHYSICS NEWS

Compiled by
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PHYSICS ROUNDTABLE REPORT

Notes from the Physics Roundtable, SLA Annual Conference in Montreal (June 12, 10:30-11:45).

There was a very good turnout for the session, with nearly 50 people attending.

The first item on the agenda was an update on the status of the APS and Gordon & Breach. Since this was discussed elsewhere (notably the PAM-wide session), I will be brief. Harry Lustig of the American Physical Society (APS) reported that the APS has spent \$500,000 so far on the entire saga,

and has won all European suits. There is still one suit pending in the United States. APS will not give up the fight, because it feels strongly that Dr Barschall's reputation must be defended and because it believes in our Constitutional guarantees of freedom of speech.

Physical Review Letters-online and *Applied Physics Letters Online* were the second item on the agenda. Maria Lebron of the APS provided the following information: PRL-o is produced using SGML (Standardized Graphical Mark-up Language). In fact, they are moving towards producing all

journals using SGML. PRL-o became available July 1 through OCLC and its Guidon software. By July 31 it should be available through the WWW, and by the end of August there should be a Macintosh version. For this first year, subscribers to the paper version can subscribe to the electronic version for free. After this year, the price for one paper copy and one electronic copy will be about \$250 more than the cost of the paper alone. In an e-mail note of July 7, Maria Lebron stated that the deadline for signing up for the free copy has been extended through October 31, so there's still lots of time for those of us who tend to procrastinate a bit. In the process of trying to get subscribers to the electronic version, APS discovered that information

continued on page 5

doesn't always get to the right people in an organization (Surprise!). They have made a concerted effort to contact everyone by now, so if YOU haven't heard about this, contact Maria Lebron, Associate Publisher, at the APS (lebron@aps.org). *Applied Physics Letters Online* has been around awhile, and *PRL-o* should work the same. The WWW version will have the capability of a hidden script with passwords and can allow only one person at a time. Of course there is more to say about this, but I think I've said enough now. Besides, once everyone really starts using this will be the time for more questions and hopefully answers!

At this point we segued on into the third item on the agenda—electronic journals and e-print services. We started with these questions: how are these being handled in libraries, how are they publicized, how are they being stored, and how active should the role of the librarian be? David Stern was the first to dive in: in his library they are being treated pretty much as a 'curiosity item' rather than as a research tool. They are on a special terminal, but even still can't meet all the possibilities in software and hardware requirements. So many different systems preclude any uniformity of access. Carol Hutchins then spoke, saying that she is trying to upgrade equipment, and that printing is a hot issue. Next to speak was Bert

TePaske-King of Mathematical Reviews. In mathematics there are lots of electronic journals, and the AMS (American Mathematical Society) is trying to archive them, but each is different and they are going a bit crazy reinventing the wheel each time a new one comes out. The lack of standards is hurting badly. David Stern pointed out that SGML is a standard, but that there are no interface standards yet, but then someone said that there also different flavors of SGML, something like the different versions of Tex. Ah, to be living and working in 'interesting times.' Nancy Kackley then brought up the issue of preprints and electronic preprints. She still subscribes to many of the print versions because of troubles with obscure compressed formats, and was wondering if anyone knew the right incantation to decipher them all. Indeed, someone did! Apparently, SLAC (Stanford Linear Accelerator Center) has already processed and uncompressed all the e-prints it provides (in astrophysics, high energy physics, and theoretical physics at least). Harry

“Ah, to be living
and working in
'interesting times.'”

Lustig commented on the likely future of e-prints (free and fast) vs refereed journals (costly and slow). There are changes afoot, and they will come!

The Library Without Walls was the topic of the last real item on the agenda. Rick Luce, Director of LANL's (Los Alamos National Laboratory) Research Library, compressed an amazing amount of information into 15

minutes, and I'm afraid I can't do justice to it, but here goes. This is a fascinating, multifaceted research project that is leading to desk top delivery of many types of information, all through a WWW interface. First of all is a WWW interface to their online catalog, then to the Energy Database (EDB) and the Science Citation Index (SCI) both with links to their holdings. Another facet is the scanning, including OCR, of 10,000-20,000 LANL reports, creating a searchable database (that won't take up thousands of feet of shelf space!). They are also working with several publishers converting journals to electronic form. This is really pushing the envelope in term of storage space requirements. They want a product similar to the LANL reports database. In the end, they are hoping for a seamless interface between the researcher or scientist and the information they need, using a WWW interface to scientific databases such as EDB and SCI, the LANL technical reports, books, and electronic journals.

At this point we ran out of time, and a good time was had by all!

Important note: I will be on Sabbatical for the fall semester, teaching courses in the Department of Library Studies at the University of the West Indies in Jamaica. I will still be in e-mail contact, but probably not daily. Thus I would really appreciate it if people would send me tidbits of information of interest to the physics people in PAM, so I can have something to report in the next issue of the *PAM Bulletin*. Thanks!

1995-96 PAM OFFICERS, COMMITTEE CHAIRS, & APPOINTMENTS**Chair-elect:**

Joanne M. Goode, goodejm@muohio.edu (through 6/96)

Chair:

Diane Fortner, dfortner@library.berkeley.edu (through 6/96)

Past-Chair:

David Stern, david_stern@qm.cis.yale.edu (through 6/96)

Treasurer:

Pat Allen, rallen@sage.cc.purdue.edu (through 6/96)

Secretary:

Robert Seeds, rss@psulias.psu.edu (through 6/97)

Editor, Bulletin:

Thurston Miller, miller.115@nd.edu (through 6/96; 1st term 6/94-)

Assistant Editor, Bulletin:

Irene Laursen, ilaursen@wellesley.edu (through 6/96; 1st term 6/94-)

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Pamela Yorks, yorks@u.washington.edu

96 Physics Roundtable:

H. Sylvia Toombs, sylvia@howdy.wustl.edu

96 Mathematics Roundtable:

Nancy Carter, nancy.carter@colorado.edu

96 Computer Science Roundtable:

(resp. of Sci-Tech; PAM in 97)

96 Vendor Update:

Judith Matthews, matthews@msupa.pa.msu.edu

96 Hospitality, Chair:

Donna Coletti, coletti@cfa.harvard.edu

Archives:

Jack Weigel, jweigel@umich.edu (indefinite term)

Government Relations, Chair:

Dorothy Manderscheid, 20676dhm@msu.edu (began 6/92)

International Relations, Chair:

Uta Michold, esolib@eso.org (began 6/93)

Liaison to Cataloguing Committee:

Mary Ann Southern, mplib@phy.duke.edu (indef. term)

Membership, Chair:

Mary De Carlo, mmdecarl@hawk.syr.edu (began 6/92)

Networking, Chair:

Kathleen Robertson, roberts@hubble.ifa.hawaii.edu (began 6/93)

Nominating:

3-person committee; 1 member each chosen by Past Chair, Secretary, and Treasurer per Bylaws;
with 1 cont. member as Chair)

continued on page 7

PAM Award:

David Stern, david_stern@qm.cis.yale.edu (began 6/95)

PAM Liaison to AAS Publications Board:

Marlene Cummins, astlibr@vela.astro.utoronto.ca (3 year term; began 2d term 6/95)

PAM Liaison to APS Publications Board:

David Stern, david_stern@qm.cis.yale.edu (3 year term; began 6/95)

PAMNet Monitor for Bulletin:

Alice Primack, aliprim@nervm.nerdc.ufl.edu (began 6/93)

Procedures Manual:

Marlene Cummins, astlibr@vela.astro.utoronto.ca (indefinite)

Professional Development, Chair:

Carol Hutchins, hutchins@nyu.edu (began 6/93)

Public Relations, Chair:

Pam Enrici, penrici@d.umn.edu (began 6/95)

Strategic Planning, Chair:

Brenda Corbin, lib@sicon.usno.navy.mil (began 6/92)

ULAS2, Chair:

Sarah Stevens-Rayburn, library@stsci.edu (Committee appointed 6/93 for duration of publicaiton process only)

1995 P-A-M AWARD

The 1995 P-A-M Award winner was Dr. Daniel Egret on behalf of SIMBAD, the "Set of Identifications, Measurements, and Bibliography for Astronomical Data." This database is operated by the Centre de Donnees de Strasbourg, Observatoire de Strasbourg, France. It is made available to the US, astronomical community without charge via the US Gateway at the Smithsonian Astrophysical Observatory by courtesy of a NASA contract.

The P-A-M award is given

"for a significant contribution to the literature of physics, math, or astronomy, or to honor work which demonstrably improves the exchange of information in physics, astronomy, and math. The contribution should also significantly benefit libraries or enhance the ability of librarians to improve service."

SIMBAD certainly met these qualifications; it has filled a huge gap in the bibliographic research for astronomical objects by indexing the literature to a level of detail that far surpasses the traditional databases. It has truly revolutionized astronomical research. Unfortunately, Dr. Egret was not able to attend the SLA conference. Our congratulations and an honorary plaque were mailed to him.

And the Winner is...

MATHEMATICS NEWS

Compiled by
Janice Jaguszewski
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See corrections, v. 23, no. 2
Mathematics Roundtable
June 14, 1995

Janice Jaguszewski, Moderator
Michael Noga, Secretary

Approximately 40 people attended.

New Math Journals.

After introductions, Dick Funkhouser announced that the new math journal list should be available shortly. Some 1994 titles were included, because some libraries added them late in the year. He asked that libraries notify him of their holdings that are not on the list (rlf@sage.cc.purdue.edu).

Update on Electronic Journals and Math Reviews.

Bert TePaske-King passed out a list that he will try to update. An electronic version is available from him (btk@math.ams.org). Changes in electronic journals will be recorded in the "Serials, Additions, and Changes" section of *Math Reviews*.

Math Reviews is working on a number of cooperative projects. Negotiations to put the *Jahrbuch uber die Fortschritte der Mathematik* up electronically have been completed. The complete work will be converted in a couple of years. There may be translations of the reviews, and sources for rare

materials may be added. Math Reviews is trying to add bibliographies such as the *Bibliography on Orthogonal Polynomials* and the *Omega Bibliography of Mathematical Logic*. Math Reviews is planning to exchange reviews with the *Zentralblatt fur Mathematik und ihrer Grenzgebiete*. Both have agreed to use the same abbreviations for journal titles. There has been some discussion on standardizing citation style as well.

Math Reviews is creating a new journal, *Reviews in Undergraduate Mathematics*. Math Reviews covers math texts rarely. The journal will review 2,000 texts up to the level of a first-year grad student annually. The reviews will be written by professors who have actually used the texts in the classroom.

Some proposals under discussion include: adding the reviews from 1940-1979 to the electronic database; establishing links to document delivery services; adding links to the original papers; adding links to catalogs; and citation indexing (which would be expensive). There was some discussion about the need to add undergraduate text reviews when other priorities were pressing.

There was a question on whether *Math Reviews* covers the *Notices of the AMS*. Bert replied

that the more mathematical papers and obituaries are covered. There was a request to cover the articles on trends in scholarly publishing also. Bert said that they could be covered too.

Update on MathSciNet.

Don Babbitt introduced himself. He has been publisher of the AMS since April 1994. He has been an editor and a long-time professor at UCLA. He noted that e-Math was now on the WWW. In January 1996, the Math Reviews database will be searchable on the Web. He passed out a sheet which described the various fees for different formats of Math Reviews and for AMS's journals, including electronic journals. AMS's primary journals are going up on e-Math in January, and four new electronic-only journals will be available in Fall 1996. *Computing Reviews* and the *Current Index to Statistics* may be available in a couple years. Three AMS publications will be free on emath: the *Bulletin*, *Notices*, and *Electronic Research Announcements*, which is coming up in July 1995. The basic price structure for the others is: 10% less than the paper cost for the electronic version only, and 15% more for both paper and electronic versions.

There was some concern whether a subscriber could have access to the electronic version of a journal for the subscription period if a library had to cancel its paper subscription. There was also concern about archiving the electronic journals. Babbitt replied that there is a cost to main-

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taining archives. Some of the subscription fees for electronic-only journals will be set aside for archives. There will be no limit on the number of simultaneous users of MathScinet at a subscribing institution when it comes up in January.

Linda Guccione added some comments to Don Babbitt's remarks. If a library cancels the MathSci CD subscription, there probably will be some type of

downloading capability on MathSciNet. The search engine is still to be developed. Macintosh users will need a dvi viewer, which Linda will announce how to obtain on PAMnet. The database will still be available on DIALOG, but not available through the SilverPlatter ERL program.

3 Questions for PAMnet

Discussion of the following questions were saved for PAMnet for lack of time at the Roundtable.

1. Can "access rather than ownership" work for mathematics users? Are there any success stories? (posed by Carol Hutchins)

2. Should PAM make a more concerted/organized effort to collect and distribute books for needy libraries? If so, how? (posed by Martha Tucker)

3. What is the latest word on out-of-print book dealers for mathematics? (posed by Carol Hutchins)

MEMBERSHIP NEWS

Compiled by
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These are the changes that have been reported to me since the final copy of the Directory has gone to press.

***** Please save a copy of these changes to add to your 1995/96 P-A-M Membership Directory.

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Corrections:

Clarification: The debit for LISA II of \$1646.70 that appeared in the Treasurer's Report in the last *PAM Bulletin* should not have been listed as an expenditure, but rather as a release of funds held in trust (i.e. leftover from LISA I).

Omission: The following statement regarding the sponsorship of the May 1995 issue was missing. "The Physics-Astronomy-Mathematics Division gratefully acknowledges the financial support provided for this issue by:" Due to this omission it appeared that the *PAM Bulletin* is now accepting advertising.

Special Libraries Association (SLA) assumes no responsibility for the statements and opinions advanced by contributors to the Association's publications. Editorial views do not necessarily represent the position of SLA. Acceptance of an advertisement does not imply endorsement of the products by SLA.

PAMnet NEWS

Compiled by
Alice Primack
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1995 PAM DIVISION AWARD

The winner is Daniel Egret, in the name of SIMBAD. This award is to recognize and to honor this database which has revolutionized astronomical research.

PHYSICS PROBLEM SOLVERS

Kevin Krisciunas of the Joint Astronomy Centre in Hilo, Hawaii, has recommended the following for helping patrons solve physics problems: (1) *The Physics Problem Solver* edited by M. Fogiel. New York, Research and Education Association, (505 Eighth Ave., New York, NY 10018), 1976. (2) *Schaum's Outline series*. (3) *Problems in Quantum Mechanics with Solutions* by G.L. Squires. Cambridge Univ. Press, 1995.

ASTRONOMICAL ALMANAC AVAILABLE

The 1996 edition of the *Astronomical Almanac* is now available from the U.S. Government Printing Office, stock number 008 054 00162-7, and the cost is \$30. The 1997 edition of *Astronomical Phenomena* will be available in early September.

HOUSTON JOURNAL OF MATH

Vol. 1 of the *Houston Journal of Mathematics* consisted of a single issue. Ever since then a vol-

ume has consisted of 4 issues.

BIBLIOGRAPHY AVAILABLE

A Bibliography of Modern Astronomical Serials has been compiled and is available from the author. Send a check for US\$32 to Huang Bikun, Librarian, Purple Mountain Observatory, Nanjing, China.

DISPOSITION OF DUPLICATES

The Trieste Centre receives donations of fairly recent and complete sets of scientific journals, textbooks, and conference proceedings from Europe and the US, and covers the cost of shipping the materials to developing countries. For more information contact H.R. Dalafi, ICTP/TWAS Donation Programmes, International Centre of Theoretical Physics. Durrani@ictp.trieste.it

ASTRONOMY THESAURUS TERMS IN MARC FORMAT

Robyn Shobbrook announces that the Astronomy Thesaurus primary terms are now available in USMARC format. The file is immediately available for transfer from the AAO Homepage or using the normal ftp anonymous user facility. You may contact Robyn with questions, at LIB@aaoopp.aao.gov.au

PRL ONLINE

Physical Review Letters online is available to those who have completed agreements and have been sent subscriber packets (ID, documentation, etc.). The Frequently Asked Questions document is available at <http://publish.aps.org>. The deadline for the 1995 complimentary subscription for 1995 institutional hardcopy subscribers has been extended from June 30 to October 31, 1995. For more information, contact Maria L. Lebron, Associate Publisher, American Physical Society. Pricing for 1996 will be as follows for US institutions:

Physical Review Letters (1 print): \$1820

Physical Review Letters online (1 online, no print): \$1700

Physical Review Letters combination (1 print, 1 online): \$2070

Physical Review Letters online (additional sub.): \$250

ASTRONOMY ON THE INTERNET

The August 1995 issue of *Sky and Telescope* has an article on the Internet: "Astronomy on the Internet" by Stuart J. Goldman, on pages 20-27.

INTERNET SITES NOTED

◆ Students for Exploration and Development of Space at Univ. of Arizona: <http://seds.lpl.arizona.edu/html/index.html>

◆ "Reshaping the Graduate Education of Scientists and Engineers": <http://www.nas.edu/nap/online/grad/index.html>

◆ AAO Homepage: <http://aaoepp.aao.gov/aaohomepage.html>

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◆ Sky Publishing: <http://www.skypub.com>

◆ *Astronomy Now*: <http://www.demon.co.uk/astronow/>

◆ *Notices of the American*

Mathematical Society: <http://e-math.ams.org/web/publications/notices/notices-home.html>

◆ Visualization system for space physics data and interactive retrieval: <http://nsscd.gsfc.nasa.gov/cohoweb/cw.html>

◆ *Newsletter on Serials Pricing*: <http://sunsite.unc.edu/reference/prices/prices.html>

◆ CICNet electronic journals web server: <http://ejournals.cic.net>



RUSSIAN LIBRARIES

Maria Lapteva
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At first I would like to give some background on the general economic situation in this country which has led to the present-day disastrous conditions in the sciences and their libraries.

Since the breakup of the Soviet Union, a downward trend in the economy has driven the country's research centers to the very brink of extinction and forced many of the most gifted researchers to go abroad. Russian science was once world-reknown in such fields as space research, physics, mathematics, and theoretical astronomy. If these downward trends continue, there are few doubts that Russian science will soon find itself in a catastrophically desperate situation.

Some research groups are managing to keep their activities going through their connections with colleagues abroad and through grants from the Russian government and western scientific organizations. The Russian Academy of Sciences runs more than 300 basic research institutes, but the Russian Ministry of Science and Technology policy does little to support these basic research in-

stitutions.

The Russian science budget is insufficient even to cover energy costs or for paying salaries, which are sometimes delayed for months. Therefore grants from the International Soros Foundation (ISF) and INTAS and other western organizations are becoming the significant source for funding any continuing research efforts.

Many researchers hoped that changes in government since the last parliamentary elections would bring more generous funding for the sciences. Those changes in government had removed radical economy reformers, some of whom had also ordered sharp cuts in government spending on science. So far, there is scant evidence of any hoped-for funding. As far as I know from the mass media, the share of governmental funding for the fundamental sciences for 1995 makes up only 1.1% of the total national income.

Mean salaries in Russia amount to 350,000 Rubles/month. The amount required to cover basic living expenses at moderate levels is 500,000 Rubles/month. At present the average salary of

scientists in academic institutions is 200,000 Rubles/month. For librarians the average salary is 180,000 Rubles/month (which translates to about US\$30). The huge difference in salaries between industry/business and science is splitting the society into the extremely rich and the desperately poor. Truck drivers, for example, enjoy a salary of up to 4,000,000 Rubles/month.

This extraordinary disparity cannot help but affect the library situation. Beginning in 1992, the libraries of the Russian academic institutions have been deprived of funding—their sole source of hard currency, which is required for purchasing any foreign publications. Under these conditions such sources as exchanges and gifts have attained an unprecedented and ever-increasing importance.

The library of the Institute for Theoretical Astronomy (ITA) has intensified activities to expand contacts with foreign astronomical institutions, societies, and individual colleagues such as librarians and researchers.

In 1994 the ITA library had contacts with 53 foreign astronomical institutions of 38 countries worldwide. Many periodical titles are being received due to the generosity of ISF and INTAS.

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However these sources of acquisitions cannot be considered as permanent. No-one knows how long these gifts can be expected to continue. The ITA administration is striving to survive in the absence of adequate funding for acquiring, operating, and maintaining the scientific equipment. One method is to rent out some of the floor space to commercial organisations. Some of this floor space comes from the ITA library. Thus for the above purpose the ITA administration took over 80 square meters from the library area. As a result the library collection storage capacity has been reduced by 40%. The library is now facing the problem of considering withdrawal of more than

20,000 volumes from its holdings, preserving only a "core" collection still housed within what still remains of the library's floorspace. Due to this heavy loss of floor space, the library is planning to replace paper publications with microfiche, floppy disks, etc. For this reason acquiring PC computers now becomes an urgent need, which again depends upon adequate funding.

It is very difficult to obtain PC computers for library and information services, since the scientific departments of ITA themselves experience deficiencies in modern PC's for their scientific research purposes. Meanwhile we are developing files on cards for subject-oriented bibliographic compilations. The same applies to the

Pulkovo Observatory, with the exception that its library has preserved its floor space intact.

Thus we are facing the following problems: (1) deficiency of funding for PC computers, related equipment, and salaries and (2) deficiency of personnel, since the ambitious young qualified experts are unwilling to work at libraries for miserably inadequate salaries (70,000 Rubles/month). This is why the library of the Russian Academy of Sciences constantly has over 100 vacant positions.

The administration of the Institute of Theoretical Astronomy is well aware of the urgency of these problems and has promised to try to solve them as soon as possible. ✍

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Alicia Rodas
library@castec.edu.ar

Dear Thurston:

I would like to inform you that in Complejo Astronomico El Leoncito (CASLEO), San Juan, Argentina, we have just changed our Chief Librarian. Juana Maria Sainz de Lloveras has changed her job and she is now no longer working at this library, and I, Alicia Rodas, am now the chief librarian here (and the only one for a while).

I have been working here for the past four years. I am a professional librarian with great experience and love for librarianship (almost 25 years in university librar-

ies). I am very interested in receiving *PAM Bulletin* because I don't think I have seen it in all these years.

I am very happy with PAM Net and PAMnetters in general because it is a wonderful work of communication and interservice and I really congratulate all of you for its organization and maintenance.

Alicia Rodas - CASLEO
San Juan, ARGENTINA ✍

FROM THE EDITORS

How do you like the new look to the Bulletin?

We were getting concerned regarding the size of the Bulletin and the associated costs to produce (postage, printing, paper, etc.) a larger issue. As a result, we have made three changes. The first is going from two columns to three. The second is changing font used for the text to Times 12pt from Palatino 12pt. The third change is to justify the columns instead of having them be ragged right.

These changes shaved four pages off the length of the Bulletin. However, saving space at the expense of readability is not a desirable outcome.

Let us know what you think. ✍

PAM Calendar of upcoming events:

| | |
|---------------------|--|
| October 15, 1995 | Deadline for November Issue of the <i>PAM Bulletin</i> |
| January 25-27, 1996 | SLA Winter Conference (Cleveland, OH) |
| June 8-13, 1996 | SLA Annual Conference (Boston, MA) |

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