

REPORT OF THE IUPAP WORKING GROUP ON COMMUNICATION

By Roger Elliott (Chair)

1. Members

The current membership of the reconstituted Working Group is as follows

Roger Elliott (Oxford) (Chair)

Enrique Canessa (ICTP)

John Enderby (IOP)

Franck Laloe (ENS Paris)

Gene Sprouse (APS)

Ken-Iche Ueda (ILS Tokyo)

Rudiger Voss (CERN)

The Group is aware that its geographical spread is not optimal and would welcome nominations, particularly from the South.

2. Meetings

The Group held two meetings on 9-10 July 2007 at the Institute of Physics in London Chaired by John Enderby and on 25-6 February 2008 at CERN. The Minutes of the second meeting are attached to give an overview of the matters discussed by the Group.

3. Recommendations

The Working Group makes the following recommendations to IUPAP Members and the physics community in general relating to various topics which have been addressed. More details about these discussions are given in the annexes (a-h) to the minutes.

(a) Open Access

The Community should support moves towards Open Access made by individual scientists and by institutions; bearing in mind that such schemes cannot be "free" and require a workable financial model.

(b) Copyright

Authors should make sure when transferring or licensing their copyright for publication that the conditions allow for appropriate personal and institutional re-use.

(c) Open Archives

The physics model of preprint archives has been a great success and represents a practice which could well be expanded into other disciplines. The Group believes that institutional archives are of less value to the physics community.

(d) Non-English Publications

Having a lingua franca, which happens to be English, is important for the scientific community. While most research literature is published in English this is less true of the technical literature and in applied research. It is recommended that National Societies should encourage the publication of at least abstracts of this material in translation, preferably on Open Access sites.

(e) Developing Country Issue

While programmes from ICTP and INASP provide access to the scientific literature at small or no cost in developing countries there is also a need for high level teaching material. Programmes such as ICTP's "Open Publishing of High Level Educational Material" should be encouraged by all members.

(f) Method of Working

It is proposed that IUPAP should instigate an investigation into the implications of the new methods of working using for example new community based web sites, which are increasingly used by the younger researchers.

(g) Author Identification

Considerable problems have been identified in the community concerning author identification and it is proposed that a group should investigate the possibility of defining a unique author identification system for physics publications, bearing in mind developments in this area which are taking place elsewhere.

(h) Ethics

While discussions with other bodies are taking place to refine a code of ethics for scientific publication the Group wishes to reiterate the validity of the Ethical Guidelines developed by its predecessor and available on the IUPAP website.