

SOC for the Joint Discussion was then formed with 11 members from 8 different countries. The proposal for the Joint Discussion was then intensively discussed over a period of months.

The proposal for a Joint Discussion on electronic publishing has been accepted by the Executive Committee of the IAU, and is tentatively scheduled for Monday, 25th August 1997.

#### **4.3 Working Group on Libraries (W.H. Warren, B. Corbin)**

The JWGal was created to foster closer co-operation between Commission 5 and the astronomical librarians around the world. A second colloquium on Library and Information Services in Astronomy (LISA II) was held at the European Southern Observatory in Garching on 10-12 May 1995 and discussions have begun about the possibility of a third meeting in 3 to 5 years. Ongoing activities among librarians have included the exchange of duplicates, discussions about the changing roles of libraries in the era of electronic journals, and how the libraries themselves fit into the overall picture of astronomical information services.

#### **4.4 Task Group on Designations (H. Dickel)**

The two main goals of the Task Group on Designations are 1) detecting ambiguous designations of sources of radiation outside the solar system and revising the "IAU Recommendations for Nomenclature" in order to help avoid such problems in the future and 2) promoting these "Recommendations".

A major accomplishment was the completion of the "Second Reference Dictionary of the Nomenclature of Celestial Objects" by Lortet, Borde, and Ochsenein and its availability "on line" in SIMBAD.

The Task Group revised the "Specifications concerning designations for astronomical radiation sources outside the solar system" (e.g. "IAU Recommendations for Nomenclature"). Two different poster papers were presented, one at the ESO Workshop on "Handling and Archiving Data from Ground Based Telescopes" and another at Joint Discussion 20 on "The status of archiving astronomical data" at the IAU General Assembly. Further small changes were made to the "IAU Recommendations for Nomenclature" document and with the aid of F. Ochsenein of CDS, it was placed on the World Wide Web (WWW URL address: <http://cdsweb.u-strasbg.fr/how.html>) along with a shorter document "How to refer to a source or designate a new one" (WWW URL address: <http://cdsweb.u-strasbg.fr/iau-spec.html>).

"The Second Reference Dictionary ..." of acronyms is also now available on the WWW (URL address: <http://astro.u-strasbg.fr/cgi-bin/Dic>). The "How to ..." document has been published in a number of Observatory and Society Newsletters and a link to the "IAU Recommendations ..." appears on the home pages of several individuals, organisations, and observatories. A Poster on designations was presented at the LISA II Symposium in May 1995 and copies of the "How to ..." document have been passed out at several IAU symposia and other such meetings during 1996. Several Editors have published or agree to publish the "IAU Recommendations ..." or the "How to ..." document in their astronomical journals (such as A&A, AJ, PASP). We are hopeful that others will at least include the URL addresses in their instructions to authors.

During the academic year 1995-96, the Task Group undertook a pilot program - a "Proposal for Registering a New Acronym". F. Ochsenein, S. Borde, and P. Dubois were instrumental in setting up the necessary infrastructure and implementing it on the WWW as part of the "Second Reference Dictionary ...". Tucker of the Las Campanas Redshift Survey submitted the first acronym, LCRS, to this experimental registry. The "Clearing House" (an advisory subgroup of the Task Group) which screens the entries, will be developing further guidelines regarding acceptance of, and resolution of conflicting submissions, etc.

During the year preceding the 23rd IAU General Assembly in Kyoto and beyond, the Task Group will continue "advertising" the "IAU Recommendations for Nomenclature" in Newsletters and at Symposia and will alert Principal Investigators of on-going major astronomical surveys to the possibility of "Registering a New Acronym". A new initiative will be pursued in co-operation with journal editors

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