

The Role of COSPAR in International Access to Archives

IPDA

Aug 28, 2006

COSPAR

PURPOSE - The Committee on Space Research (COSPAR) objectives are to promote on an international level scientific research in space, with emphasis on the exchange of results, information and opinions, and to provide a forum, open to all scientists, for the discussion of problems that may affect scientific space research. These objectives are achieved through the organization of Scientific Assemblies, publications and other means.

MEMBERS - National Academies of Science
US Member - National Academy of Science
2101 Constitution Ave., Washington, DC

FUNDING - No funding from the mother society for secondary activities (Similar in operation to IAU)

July 19, 2006 David Smith - Committee on Planetary and Lunar Exploration (COMPLEX/NAS)

Reta,

Pam Whitney (pwhitney@nas.edu) is the expert on COSPAR. Data standards, data compatibility, archiving, etc. are just the sort of thing COSPAR is good at bringing to the forefront of attention in the space science community around the world.

David

July 25, 2006 (Pamela Whitney)

Reta,

You asked for guidance on how the planetary community might 1) put forth a COSPAR resolution on international data archiving, and/or 2) establish a COSPAR panel on international data archiving (for the planetary sciences). Please find below some information related to both of your questions of interest.

Pamela Whitney
Senior program Officer Space Studies Board

(Note: the Space Studies Board (SSB) reports to the National Research Council(NRC) the operational arm of the National Academies (Science, Engineering, and Medicine). The academies are privately endowed.

Resolutions and Recommendations

1. COSPAR Resolutions and Recommendations communicate COSPAR's positions on various topics to the world.
2. Resolutions and recommendations emerge through the COSPAR scientific structure. For instance, planetary science falls in COSPAR Commission B on Space Studies of the Earth-Moon System, Planets, and Small Bodies of the Solar System. The resolution or recommendation would be drafted at the Commission B business meeting (or beforehand), approved by the Commission B business meeting attendees, and then passed on to the COSPAR Bureau and Council for approval.

Creating a COSPAR Panel

1. The process for creating a COSPAR Panel would need to emerge through the COSPAR structure.
2. Someone would need to propose that COSPAR create such a panel at the Commission B Business Meeting at the 2008 Assembly in Montreal and get Commission B behind the proposal.
3. Then the proposal would go to the COSPAR Bureau for approval. The Bureau would help draft the terms of reference and would oversee the work of the panel.

From the COSPAR Bylaws....Regarding Creation of Panel -- SUBSIDIARY BODIES

1. Panels, *ad hoc* Committees, and other subsidiary bodies may be established, modified, or discontinued at any time by the Bureau.
2. The period for which the subsidiary body is established shall be determined by the Bureau. The period may be indefinite.

From the COSPAR Bylaws--(Cont.)

3. The chairmen, other officers (as needed), and members of subsidiary bodies shall be appointed by the Bureau for the period of the (rest of the) mandate of the subsidiary body, or four years, whichever is shorter. Chairmen, officers, and members of subsidiary bodies may be re-appointed by the Bureau once for a second term lasting until the end of the mandate of the subsidiary body, or four years, whichever is shorter.
4. Among the subsidiary bodies of COSPAR there shall be a Committee on Publications and a Committee on Awards. These shall be standing committees (i.e. established for indefinite periods).

Existing COSPAR PANELS

Technical Panel on Satellite Dynamics (PSD)

Panel on Technical Problems Related to Scientific Ballooning (PSB)

Panel on Potentially Environmentally Detrimental Activities in Space (PEDAS)

Panel on Radiation Belt Environment Modeling (PRBEM)

Panel on Space Weather (PSW)

Panel on Planetary Protection (PPP)

Panel on Capacity Building (PCB)

Panel on Education (PE))

Historical Insight

The Planetary Protection Panel is the closest COSPAR example to a panel on International Data Archiving.

For the record, I've included on the following slides, the history of the establishment of the Planetary Protection Panel

ESTABLISHMENT

Verbatim from Minutes of COSPAR Bureau meeting, which was held in Spring 1999, at which the Panel on Planetary Protection was established.

"The Bureau then considered a proposal from J.D. Rummel to create a Panel on Planetary Protection (PPP). This initiative is a follow-on to a Scientific Commission F recommendation rejected at the previous Scientific Assembly. The primary objectives of the Panel within COSPAR are to develop, maintain, and promulgate planetary protection knowledge, policy, and plans to prevent the harmful effects of such contamination, and through symposia, workshops, and topical meetings at COSPAR Assemblies to provide an international forum for exchange of information in this area. Through COSPAR the Panel will inform the international community, e.g., the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (COPUOS) of the United Nations, as well as various other bilateral and multilateral organizations. Noting that the proposal has been reworked since first put forth in such as to make its objectives more attainable within the context of COSPAR activities and influence, the Bureau agreed to create the Panel for an initial period lasting until the end of the 2002 Assembly. J.D. Rummel (USA) will serve as chair, and F. Raulin (France) as vice-chair."

CURRENT STATUS

Panel on Planetary Protection (PPP) Chair: Rummel, J.D. (USA), 2006 - 2008

Vice-Chair: Raulin, F. (France), 2006 - 2008

Terms of Reference --The Panel is concerned with biological interchange in the conduct of solar system exploration, including:

- (1) possible effects of contamination of planets other than the Earth, and of planetary satellites within the solar system by terrestrial organisms; and
- (2) contamination of the Earth by materials returned from outer space carrying potential extraterrestrial organisms.

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CURRENT STATUS(cont.)

At the second session of its 34th meeting (20 October 2002, Houston, Texas, (USA), the COSPAR Council adopted a revised and consolidated planetary protection policy which will continue to be updated and amended over time.

In addition to providing specific guidelines, the policy recommends that COSPAR members provide information to COSPAR within a reasonable time, not to exceed six months after launch, about the procedures and computations used for planetary protection for each flight and again within one year after the end of a solar-system exploration mission about the areas of the target(s) which may have been subject to contamination.

Information provided to COSPAR is available at <http://www.cosparhq.org/scistr/ppp.htm> at [PPPReports](#).