

Abstracts of Poster Papers

Abstracts of poster papers relevant to this section of the Special Session are presented below.

The Physics-Astronomy-Mathematics Asia-Pacific Forum: A Network for Librarians and Information Specialists

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Non-commercial astronomical publications have been freely distributed worldwide to relevant institutions for more than a century. Astronomers have considered collaboration a very important aspect of their work and, to assist them, librarians have established a supportive international network.

In 1988 the first Library and Information Services in Astronomy meeting was held in Washington, USA. From this meeting, a discussion list was established. Shortly afterwards, the lack of resources for astronomers in the former Eastern Block countries was realised and the twinning of libraries in this region with sister institutions in developed countries was introduced. These resources were not available for libraries in the Asia Pacific Region.

The Physics Astronomy, Mathematics Division (PAM) of the Special Libraries Association, working with the Australian Library and Information Association founded the PAM-Asia Pacific Forum (PAM-APF) in 1998.

This discusses the aims of this network, the advantages offered by publishers to participating libraries, achievements so far and proposed developments.

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ALA: Astronomy in Latin America

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An electronic newsletter was launched in Latin America with the purpose of fostering communication and collaboration between the national astronomical communities. The unique characteristics of this newsletter are presented, together with the first results and plans for the future.