

FINAL COMMENT

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During the General Assembly of the IAU at Brighton in 1970, the idea of a stellar data centre was received with a fair amount of scepticism. This colloquium shows clearly that this scepticism was an error of appreciation. We see today that major data centres exist, here at Strasbourg, in Japan, in the USA and USSR, and that a close collaboration exists between them. In addition, many groups in various fields bring very valuable contributions. The development of astronomical networks is also a pleasant thing to mention; but it is certainly less pleasant, as regards ground-based data, to speak about funding. Governments or scientific authorities give money for very expensive instruments (e.g. large telescopes) with which it is possible to obtain data - but expensive data. These same authorities do not pay enough attention to the preservation and dissemination of these data. This situation is certainly better in space astronomy, which is mainly due to the existence of the NSSDC. An effort should be made in two directions: facilities to publish data and extension of financial support to data centres.