

IMU CEIC Berlin 2012

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19/20 July 2012

1 Preliminaries

Present Olver (Chair), Groetschel, Davenport (notes), Hutchins, Lovasz, Bouche, Caprotti, Vakil (from 12:00 19 July).

Staff The office staff (except for the Archivist who was on vacation), were introduced.

2 Minutes

Best Practices MG reminded us that “Best Practices” was a general CEIC direction, but that these should be endorsed by the IMUs General Assembly.

OpenAccess The Director of Maths at the NSF had had a Q&A at Minneapolis. He hinted that a major policy announcement is imminent. The 100 top libraries in the U.S. spend 10⁹\$ a year on journals, essentially out of research overheads. A small fraction of this sum would go a long way towards funding open access.

IMUnet/Notices JHD reported that he had been invited by Notices AMS to write an article for them on founding e-journals, and this seemed like a good idea.

Mailing Lists MG explained that the policy being set up for the Prize committees was that there would be three lists each: for example **Fields14-chair** (visible to the rest of the world) **Fields14** (an internal communication only list: ‘closed’ in technical parlance¹), and **Fields14-archive** — no-one reads this in real-time, but it is archived.

¹MG noted this caused him problems in view of his many e-mail personae. TB thought that it was possible to have ‘non-receiving’ addresses, e.g. MG’s aliases.

TB/technician

3 Websites

OC raised the issue of resolution/bandwidth for developing countries. In fact, mobile 'phones are much the most common browser. Moodle has a database of 'phone types which it uses to produce pages 'fit for device'. MG noted that this would involve effort, and the technical support was limited. Leveraging off an existing database is clearly less work than developing our own.

MG reported that he had offered to host a server for the African countries, but they had gone with Springer.

The original design of the IMU pages had been MG's for many years, and was functional rather than "exciting". ICMI has its own (good) website run by the current ICMI Secretary: the future of this after his term of office ends is not clear. On the IMU website, under "Activities", the plans are for CDC [Developing Countries]² and "women" to follow a new design, but these hadn't yet produced definitive versions. The Content Management System being used is Typo3.³ CEIC was reminded that `mailto:technician@mathunion.org` was the correct address for comments on the website, and other technical matters.

The question was what CEIC should do. PO currently maintains CEIC at his site, in a low-tech manner. He was (painfully) familiar with Typo3 as a blog service, but not as a general Content Management System. OC said that she would look into this once the CDC design was live, and see if she could do this conversion. The following plan was agreed.

- OC to meet with technical staff 20/7: she will need a Typo3 account at IMU. technician
- OC and PO to be informed when the design is definitive (MG confirms this should be early September). technician
- PO/OC to liaise on the transfer.
- One perennial problem is 'news and events': all websites have problems updating this. IMU net is the excellent (six times/year) central IMU newsletter, linked from the IMU central pages.
- We should call for volunteers to maintain any news page, since a bad news page is worse than none. It should be possible to arrange for an email-based submission system, possibly with moderation. This should be done at the IMU level, rather than CEIC-specific. MCM does an excellent job of editing IMU net, but this has led to the fact that there is no formal definition of "IMU news". This would probably differ between a formal newsletter and a regular feed. There was a general consensus for a correspondents/editor model, where 'correspondents' could be geographical, as

²www.mathunion.org/cdcneu.

³<http://typo3.org/>.

in “news from Africa”, or thematic, as in “news from Computer Algebra”. This editorial job is different from MCM’s, but the two would clearly need to communicate.

EC

4 Blog On Mathematical Journals

It was noted that the last comment was April 2012. IMU EC has decided *not* to proceed with any journal ranking systems. All that is currently coming in is spam, and CEIC agreed that all future input should be directed to CH alone from now. The entry on the main IMU web page (bottom left) should be “IMU blogs” rather than “blog on journals”, and placed under ‘Publications’.

technician

ID is to write a closing piece for the blog, and then the blog should be closed for any further comment (unless she wants further comment).

PO/ID

CEIC noted that the process of blogging had been a success, and provided useful input. CEIC **recommended** that IMU should keep this route open for further issues. However, Typo3 had probably not been the best technology, and Wordpress seemed to be the favourite.

RV

Getting a “professional math blogger” involved would also be a good idea. We should also explicitly say “IMU Blog On” [whether we can say ‘on’ rather than ‘On’ depends on the software!]. There could/should even be a general entry “IMU blogs” on the main web site. CH noted that Peter Krautzberger (<http://peter.krautzberger.info/>) has his own collection of relevant blogs at <http://www.mathblogging.org/>, and CEIC **recommended** that he be approached.

5 WDML and Workshop

5.1 Phase 1

PO reported on the Sloan-Foundation funded workshop. See http://ada00.math.uni-bielefeld.de/mediawiki-1.18.1/index.php/Main_Page. There is a *draft* of his final report on that wiki. He has had some feedback, but none from AMS. There had been a substantial majority for ‘openness’, both ‘open data’ and ‘open metadata’, which would cause Mathematical Reviews/AMS problems. A general conclusion was that the WDML needs a coordinator.

TB noted that there is a dream to use Wolfram Alpha as the search tool for a heritage (i.e. copyright-free) DML, but in his view this *was* a pipe-dream.

One question which came up is “mathematical search”. Sloan is interested in this, under the name “computability”. JHD pointed to his notes from Bremen: <http://staff.bath.ac.uk/masjhd/Meetings/JHDonCICM2012.pdf>, and particularly the fact that what he calls “hybrid search”, words plus formulae, turns out to be what users need, just as ‘containing the words’ is more common than ‘exact phrase’. The classic example is B_{n+p} , which should certainly match B_{p+n} , pretty certainly B_{p+i} and so on, but is best searched in conjunction with the word ‘Bell’ (or ‘Bell polynomials’).

It was noted that ‘mathematical publishing’ was a difficult operation to manage. Learned Societies have various stages of spin-off. RV pointed out that there is a tension between all-volunteer workforce (infeasible) and the professional (MathSciNet etc.).

LL noted that the Hungarian Academy had an archive of (almost) all of Erdős’ work, which has a very small intersection with EuDML. This is a good example of what the gaps are in the current provision.

5.2 Phase 2

One question came up over the governance of WDML. PO outlined two options.

- Directly governed by IMU.
- IMU nominated representatives on some “Board of Regents”. Other members might be the U.S. National Academy of Sciences. It is wise to insure that institutionally based financial conflict of interest can be avoided.

He asked for views. A general view was that this could be a suitable subject for the next blog. JHD noted that it would really need the report to be finalised, and the time-line would hit the IMUnet of the end of September. CH noted that we should also look outside the mathematics community for such examples of multi-national collective governance. We should check with ‘blog experts’.

TB noted that EuDML had an Advisory Board, whose Chair is appointed by the EMS, and the rest are nominated in collaboration with the EMS. After EuDML as a project ceases (Feb 2013), it is thought that this will become the main governing body for EuDML.

6 General

MG explained the history.

- IMU has a ‘Secretary’, and until 2011 the secretariat was rebased with changes of the Secretary. Modern rules on money-laundering (payments from Cuba and Iran, for example) and the general increase in complexity, meant that this was rapidly becoming infeasible.
- After numerous rounds of shortlisting, Berlin (Weierstraß) was selected. They have numerous memorabilia: the original portrait from which Gauß on the 10DM note was taken, and a 3-D copy of a bust of Euler.
- The IMU Office is part of the Weierstraß Institute, which was formed from the DDR Academy of Sciences, and therefore had a tradition of employing researchers.
- IMU is technically a 501c-3⁴ insitution as far as German law is concerned.

⁴This was non-trivial: photographs of LL, MG and the King of Spain helped!

6.1 Electronic Voting

- It was noted that the last GA (approximately 80 organisations form the voting constituency) had requested electronic voting for questions arising between General Assemblies. This would be required *between* meetings.
- JHD and CH noted that many learned societies did “professional” e-mail voting for Council etc. GAMM also allow electronic voting.⁵

7 Archiving

7.1 Historical Material

- JHD thought that the most urgent task was collection at IMU of the data. JHD/OC/office to write guidelines for MG/ID to send to past members of the IMU structure. JHD

- It was noted that the IMU had essentially no control of the backups of e-mail etc. being maintained by individual’s institutions. This poses a theoretical risk to people’s privacy under Freedom of Information Acts etc.

7.2 Current materials: confidential

- The IMU had an offer from Duke University of a secure server, rather than e-mail. The problem with this is that the user had to be pro-active as the server, being “confidential”, did not send out reminders.⁶
- It was noted again that Freedom of Information Acts might apply, in particular to U.S. public universities such as Minnesota.
- It was noted that these committee members are busy people, and the system has to impose minimal load on them.
- JHD recommended, and the Committee agreed, that, *if practicable* the IMU should use a secure server for prize discussions, rather than e-mail, to preserve, not just the confidentiality of any particular cycle’s discussions, but also the integrity of the whole process: if one cycle’s deliberations were leaked it would be difficult to find people to serve on future committees.
- The timescale is that nominations are open until the end of 2012. Hence we need to have a system working by the start of 2013.
- MG will be writing to committee members very shortly, but will say “secure solutions to be communicated further”.

⁵JHD would check with the Electoral Reform Society (UK) and ?? with GAMM.

⁶Further checking indicated that this may not in fact be the case: the server’s documentation says that it does not mail out content, which clearly is appropriate.

- CEIC **recommended** that the system be hosted by the IMU for the following reasons: long-term provision, long-term archiving, and protection from inappropriate Freedom of Information requests. This would require a suitable software package to be identified and installed.
- MG reported that the Abel Prize Committee⁷ uses a company which provides a secure blogging server. Having said which, not every member of the committee uses this, and sends e-mail to the Committee secretary. The Abel Chair says that this setup works.

7.3 Current materials: non-confidential

- These should be being archived, and PO was able to read the CEIC14 archives.
- It was noted that CEIC had switched to non-list e-mails for a while from February 2012, and PO had a private archive. This should be zipped and re-archived at IMU.

PO

7.4 Web sites

- JHD raised the question of archiving the IMU website. We should keep an *archival* copy of the website on a regular basis, in a non-software dependent format (HTML, PDF). This should be done on an infrequent, but regular basis (e.g. start of every year and for each ICM: immediately after would capture the Prizes announcements). The first archive should be taken at the end of calendar 2012, and then every year.
- CH noted the earlier debate on blogging software. There is a choice between IMU running the site itself, and getting some-one else (the obvious choice is `wordpress.com`). RV said that we could get them to host, say, `imublogs.org`, for, roughly, \$70. We would then need the web-site archiver (see previous item) to collect these as well.

technician

In terms of the history of the website, we could use `web.archive.org`.

7.5 General

The Committee reminded itself, and the IMU, that it was important not to be profligate in terms of document sizes.

8 Copyright and ICMs

- MG reported that ID had ensured support from the Simon Foundation to film the Prize Winners for 2014. IMU will be able to show the films on its websites.

⁷Legally, the Abel Foundation.

- A major question will be the copyright of videos of the 2014 ICM.
- MG reported that it is *now* part of the contract for ICMs that the videos etc. are transferred to the IMU and can be shown on the IMU website.

8.1 Videos

It was **recommended** that the IMU **instruct** the organisers of ICMs to include this statement in the agreement with the speakers at *all* recorded ICM lecturers, and major participants at recorded ICM events.

In connection with my invitation to speak at the International Congress of Mathematicians, I authorize the International Mathematical Union (the "Union") and its agents to record photographs or other portraits or likenesses of me on videotape, audiotape, film, photograph or any other medium and use, reproduce, *reasonably* modify, distribute, and publicly exhibit such recordings, in whole or in part, without restrictions or limitation for any purpose that the Union deems *to fulfil its objectives*. I further consent to the use of my name, voice and biographical material in connection with such recordings.

I release the Union, its successors and assigns, agents, and all persons for whom it is acting from any liability by virtue of any blurring, distortion, alteration, optical illusion, or use in composite form, whether intentional or otherwise, that may occur or be produced in the recording process, or any unintentional misspellings or inaccuracies and waive any right that I may have to inspect or approve the finished recordings.

(Based on <http://www.extension.umn.edu/guidelines/components/PhotographicLikenessRelease.pdf>: the italics are the changes)

8.2 Proceedings

MG reminded the CEIC of IMU's policy.

The organisers of a Congress have the right to select the publishers of the proceedings, *but* the proceedings should be available electronically after a grace period (normally two years). The editor/publishing house will have the copyright.

9 Copyright etc.

MG pointed out that John Ewing had attempted to explain to him what "public domain" meant. It was noted that common law/English/U.S. 'copyright' was not the same as German Urheberrecht. French law again was different.

TB's view was that "Creative Commons with Attribution" was the best licence for academic work. LL said that it would be to everyone advantage

to issue recommendations that were appropriate for the community as well as authors.

Various members reminded the Committee of Wilf Hodges excellent document (http://www.mathunion.org/ceic/Publications/Recommendations/7_copyright.shtml). It should be more visible on the current CEIC site.

PO

We should check its currency with Wilf.⁸

JHD

It's worth reviewing these guidelines in the light of the Creative Commons licence, updating it (even if the changes are minimal) and getting it endorsed by the GA. This means it had to be finished by the end of 2013, but PO would like a deadline of the end of October 2012.

All CEIC

Attention was also drawn to Kristine Fowler's AMS article "Do Mathematicians Get the Author Rights They Want?": <http://www.ams.org/notices/201203/rtx120300436p.pdf>.

⁸JHD tried, but the e-mail bounced.