

Informatics Commission
Publications Exchange Sub-commission
Chairman: Michele Sivelli (IT)
Report draft for the next meeting PESC
Bologna, 2022/07/07

This report updates the activity of the Publications Exchange Sub-commission (PESC), previously named PEWG - Publications Exchange Working Group, to July 2022 and represents the fourth PESC document, the first of the current leader since 2018. We recall here the original aims of the PESC:

- Promote the exchanges of previous and new paper journals and books that will be housed in physical libraries internationally;
- Publicize the extent of this international cooperation to help safeguard the preservation of important speleological information into the distant future, as a widely distributed ‘archive’;
- Examine the opportunities and problems related to the production, dissemination and long-term storage of information electronically, primarily to improve its international, searchable, ‘access’, and to produce a distributed digital archive.

Based on these aims, Trevor Faulkner, former PESC president and various collaborators have produced a series of documents that have satisfactorily responded to some of the aims set by the PESC. On *UIS Bulletins* 58 (1) 5–7, May 2016; 59 (1) 42–43; June 2017 and 59 (2) 86–87, December 2017 and on the document "Issue 3" at the PESC web page <http://www.uisic.uis-speleo.org/publexch/reports>, PESC reports, guidelines and activities carried out so far can be consulted.

The latest published report (*UIS Bulletin* 59-2) highlights the actions still to be carried out and the decisions to be taken, which are summarized here below:

1. Complete the spreadsheets 12, 13, 14 of the “Paper Exchanges Received” (Issue 3, Appendix 6)
2. Verify the necessity to establish new UIS Documentation Centers (where, who, what, why).

With respect to point one, today we have to add also the spreadsheets 10 (Contacts) and 11 (Journal Titles), due to the fact that the people and the journals statement are evolving continuously.

1. Compilation of the Spreadsheet 12, 13, 14

On the Paper Exchanges Received (Spreadsheet 12, 13, 14) each organization listed was invited to expand and communicate the status of their exchanges of periodicals.

In reality, however, the invitations to this compilation did not give significant feedback. In practice only very few organizations have published the status of their exchanges to date.

The persistence of this situation led to the decision to take a different action, essentially aimed at bypassing the problem of the missing new data on these spreadsheets (see attached to this document: Spreadsheets 15 PESC Journal Organizations Countries – S15 JOC).

There is, however, an objective difficulty in stabilizing the knowledge of exchange relationships between organizations since in some cases there is a frequent turn-over of the various people in charge, especially among librarians of local organizations.

In any case, this action is also a work in progress and does not want to replace the previous spreadsheets, but rather to integrate them as a repertoire for consultation and use by individual organizations.

This document is an inventory that collects in a single document the most important periodicals of each country and, above all, has tried to find the websites where the publications are available for download.

The report has been realized thanks to the support of different librarians and/or editors approached personally by e-mail. However, it must be admitted that, as happened for the Spreadsheets 12, 13, 14, not all the persons/organizations contacted sent a response.

It is recalled that this invitation for collaboration was addressed to the majority of the members in address on the “PEWEG Appendix 6 Issue 1.1 Contacts and e-mail” published in 2017.

Furthermore the aim of this action has been to keep in view the caving organizations of the various countries belonging to the caving community (affiliated with UIS or not), and not only detecting the status of the most known and popular journals globally. In fact, it is believed that even the smallest or recently established organizations, should be equally involved and known.

Considerations, search parameters, procedures of the Spreadsheets 15 (S15 JOC)

As already mentioned, this spreadsheet is a reasoned - and still incomplete - repertoire of exclusively caving periodicals published by speleological organizations.

- Another priority purpose of the repertoire was to verify the possibility of finding online in full text the magazines, even very important ones, no longer available on paper.

The inventory takes into account the following parameters

- historical importance of the periodical,
- distribution level,
- longevity and continuity of the periodical,
- availability in Internet
- if not available online, verified where possible, the publisher's willingness to send it digitally on-demand.

All parameters are proportioned in an intimate connection between the trinomial: journal/organization/country. It is important to underline that for some situations dozens if not hundreds of newspapers are not included (France, UK, Italy, etc), whereas for others instead all or almost all of the existing ones are inserted, regardless of their importance.

The information retrieval activities took place through:

- direct contacts via email with the representatives of the caving organizations,
- consultation of countless speleological web pages,
- bibliographic repertoires (some of the reference data are reported at the end of the report).

Anyone using the data and data links of this repertoire will be free to organize his own database or data repository, and for this purpose everyone is invited to observe the valuable information already issued by the PESG on Issue 3 Chapter 8 “The creation, exchange and storage of digital publications” and see also the recommendations offered in Chapter 6 “Postal Exchanges”.

Warning: it is known that the URLs of websites may not be stable over time, therefore it is possible that not all the links shown in the document might still be valid in the near future.

Note

It is certainly useful to remember that, regardless of the level of exchange of publications between organizations, the most important periodicals of a strictly scientific nature in the speleological field are namely: *Acta Carsologica*, *Caves and Karst Science*, *Helictite*, *International Journal of Speleology* and *Journal of Caves and Karst Studies*, and are mostly available for download on their sites and their content fully indexed on Google Scholar.

Some references

Drouin, Philippe (2005): Cent ans de publications spéléologiques françaises. *Spélunca Mémoires*, n. 28 (2005) : 145 p.

Goran, Cristian (1993): Les publications de l’Institut de Spéologie “Emile Racovitza” (1926-1993). Les publications périodiques. Academia Română : p. [30]-107.

Lloret i Prieto, Jordi (2016): 66 años de boletines y revistas espeleológicas del estado Español 1950-2015. Centro de Documentación y museo de la espeleología : 175 p.

Rathgeber, Thomas (1996). Höhlenkundliche Zeitschriften in Deutschland. *Karst und Höhle*, 1994/95 : s. 25-53.

Spéléo-Club du Liban (1994): Bibliographie libanaise des sciences karstiques. *Al Ouat'Ouate*, n. 9 (1994) : p. 86 .

Spring, Daniela; **Deriaz**, Patrick (eds) (1997): Catalogue general : livres, périodiques, Fonds Jean-Pierre Mairetet = Gesamtkatalog : Bücher, Zeitschriften, Sammlung Jean-Pierre Mairetet. Société Suisse de Spéléologie - Bibliothèque centrale. *Index des périodiques par pays = Länderregister* : p./s. 251-263.

BBS/SA Various years

Speleo Digest NSS Various years

OPAC:

<https://speleoteca.biblioteche.it/shelf/view/persistent:25?sort=lastin>

<http://catalogue.ssslib.ch:8080/French/Main.htm>

<https://digitalcommons.usf.edu/kip/>

https://biblio.speleoj.be/opac_css/

<https://caving-library.org.uk/catalogue/catalogue.shtml>

2. Verify the necessity to establish new UIS Documentation Centers

In the final part of the Issue 3 in “Chapter 9 - Review of previous action”, among the actions under construction there was the question concerning the institution of new UIS Documentation Centers. The problem at the moment is the same over the time, and that is: “*which person or group shall decide which libraries fulfil the requirements to be new (national) Documentation Centers, and what is the process for making that decision?*” from Workshop on 2017-07-28 at ICS 2017, Sydney, Australia.

In other words, it would be necessary to concretely answer these precise questions:

Is there really a need for new Documentation Centers?

Have there been any applications in recent years?

Do all existing Documentation Centers actually respond to current needs? Do they actually provide the services?

As for the previous Point 2, the topic is complex and postponed to a special meeting during the 18th ICS in Bourget-du-Lac.

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