

**Record of the Journal Exchanges Meeting held at 10 am on Thursday 25 July 2013
at the 16th International Congress of Speleology in Brno, Czech Republic.**

Attendance:

Jos Burgers	(JB)	Speleo Nederland
Dave Checkley	(DC)	Chairman, BCRA, UK
Guido de Keyzer	(GdeK)	Belgium
Patrick Deriaz	(PD)	Librarian, SSS, Switzerland
John Dunkley	(JD)	Australian Speleo Federation
Scott Engel	(SE)	Editor, JC&KS, NSS, USA
Trevor Faulkner	(TF)	Foreign Secretary, BCRA, UK
Svein Grundström	(SG)	Chairman and Librarian, NGF, Norway
Ric Halliwell	(RH)	Craven Pothole Club, UK
Pat Halliwell	(PH)	Librarian, Craven Pothole Club, UK
Michael Laumanns	(ML)	Speleo Club Berlin, Germany
Greg Middleton	(GM)	Tasmania, Australia
Martin Mills	(MM)	Grampian Speleological Group, UK
Ralph Mueller	(RM)	Arbeitsgemein-schaft Höhle u Karst, Germany
Marc Pauwels	(MP)	Belgium
Ulla Pettersson	(UP)	Librarian, SSF, Sweden
Jenny Potts	(JP)	Library Coordinator, BCRA, UK
Michele Sivelli	(MS)	Editor and Librarian, SS Italy
Andrzej Tyc	(AT)	Kras i Speleologia & University of Silesia, Poland

The meeting was attended by 19 people, with others expressing an interest, as on the email address list. The meeting was chaired by TF, who proposed an agenda for the meeting. This was accepted by the attendees, as shown on the attached PowerPoint file PP029, which was also used by the BCRA speakers in the meeting. The meeting was recorded by DC.

The meeting started with a talk by JP about the British Caving Library. Next, DC introduced the BCRA Caving Archive. TF then introduced the BCRA policy for continuing to exchange caving journals on paper. Following discussion, BCRA ideas on Electronic Journal Exchanges and the arising issues were explained, followed by further discussion. Discussions became quite wide-ranging at the end. The meeting concluded at about 11.45 am.

1 The following comments were made during the meeting about paper caving journal exchanges by post.

1.1. SG said that NGF made 17 exchanges with other caving groups around the world. He had brought publications for people who do not have exchanges with NGF, and that includes the special anniversary issue (50) of *Norsk Grotteblad*.

1.2. UP then suggested that we should exchange our lists of exchanges and that TF should send them out to all those present at the meeting.

1.3. JB said that they had tried to set up exchanges with groups in the UK, but several had replied that they did not want to exchange with material written in Dutch.

1.4. JP said that the British Caving Library does exchange with journals in other languages, but following discussion on this point it was thought that where possible a summary in English at the end of each article would be a help.

1.5. JD said that they want to keep exchanging paper copies of journals that can then be stored safely for long periods of time. However, GM said that Tasmania has gone entirely digital and will no longer send out paper copies in exchange.

- 1.6. ML said that one of their problems was that the library often moved when the librarian changed, as it was stored in their home. They do however have many exchanges and the Berlin Speleo Club's exchanges and publications were going very well.
- 1.7. In the following discussion it was stated that one problem was that caving federations were at present short of money and this was particularly true for the Spanish Federation. Also it was thought that a key element was to have more than a single individual involved in running the library and this was particularly important if the library was stored in an individual's home.
- 1.8. PD said that SSS had between one and two hundred exchanges. In the library they have ten thousand books and thirty thousand journals.
- 1.9. It was suggested that at the Euro Speleo meeting in Yorkshire (UK) in 2016 there should be a book and journal exchanges session to help support the caving libraries around the world.
- 1.10. AT said that the Polish Federation do not publish journals, but they are happy to exchange books. Polish publications are available for people who want them.
- 1.11. MS is editor of the journal *Speleologia* and works for the library, which is stored in a university. They send out one hundred and fifty journals for exchange and get up to ninety back. He felt that it is important to spread information as widely as possible, but rising postal costs could limit their exchanges in the future. Italy is working on an English edition of *Speleologia*.
- 1.12. UP said that much of their library is stored at home, but they also rent a room in Stockholm, which is run by members of the SSF board.
- 1.13. JD said that in Australia libraries and universities are currently short of money. This limits their subscriptions to journals so exchanges may be the only way to obtain copies.

2. Electronic Journal Exchanges Discussion

- 2.1. TF raised the following issues concerning electronic exchanges:
 - 2.1.1. International standards for electronic exchanges would be helpful, particularly if groups want to print the journals.
 - 2.1.2. Cataloguing, how to store the material, how to make it available to people, and copyright, are all problems at present.
- 2.2. ML said that the Berlin Speleo Club was concerned that exchanging their journals electronically would impact on their sales of paper journals.
- 2.3. SE said that the budget for the Journal of Caves and Karst Studies had been significantly reduced recently. Originally, all NSS members had been sent paper copies, but they are now made available online to save money. NSS has email addresses for all members, who are informed when to go online to read each new issue. Approximately a quarter of the members are life members and they still get paper copies, but this creates a lot of work, keeping in touch with them. Online access does not currently require a password, but in the future access will be restricted to members. Each article is currently made available online when it is ready, but the plan is to bring all articles together at the end of the year as a paper copy, which members will pay extra for. This will reduce the cost of the present three printed publications per year. How to run the exchanges is not currently clear. One of the major problems for the NSS is that they have few new members and have lost a third of their membership over the last five years, as a result of restricted cave access following the spread of White Nose Syndrome in bats.
- 2.4. TF raised the issue of charging authors for publishing their papers as a way to help cover the costs, which is the increasing practice by commercial publishers, especially for colour pages. Commercial charges to authors for making papers 'open access' are several thousand per article.
- 2.5. SE said that the NSS charge for colour productions, but these are small charges to ensure that this does not limit the submissions. Using publishing houses means that journal access would cost everyone. The ISI number is important for all submissions.

2.6. JD said that in Australia a journal high citation index is important for academics to get research funding.

2.7. UP said that in Sweden journal paper publications are popular with the members, so they are staying with them.

2.8. PD said that making journals available by sending out PDF's would mean that they would not be readable by everyone, but the costs of paper publications can be limiting.

2.9. PH said that CPC send out publications as two packs per year to limit costs. They have limited exchanges and receive some CD's which they print out, but this is a lot of work.

2.10. In the USA some journals are online only and are downloaded to Google books. They can then be read or linked to the website to buy them.

3. Plans for the Future

3.1. TF proposed that there should be a UIS body or possibly a working group as part of the Bibliography or Informatics commission.

3.2. Email addresses for the group should be circulated.

4. Key Points

4.1. English or other language abstracts would be helpful for multinational exchanges.

4.2. Libraries should be run by teams and not stored in people's houses.

4.3. Many national federations are short of money, but it is still best to stay with paper publications for exchanges.

4.4. We should plan exchange meetings at future international caving meetings, the next one being in 2016.

4.5. As libraries and universities are short of money, putting material online when it is ready and then publishing a single volume at the end of the year, could help them

5. After the meeting

5.1. Angel Gines (Spain) thought that making cave information widely available electronically could result in more cave vandalism and could raise safety issues for the public. However, GM has written that this would be a 'red herring' in Australia, where cave location information is generally not given in publicly-available publications. TF notes that this practice varies country by country. In the UK, there would probably be little risk in putting more cave grid references on websites. Other countries might wish to avoid doing that, whilst still giving detailed information in paper journals.

5.2. TF notes that housing caving libraries in separate rented premises can sometimes be financed by the caving organisation seeking bequests from its dedicated older members.

5.3. TF attended the two UIS commissions the following day to make these proposals. It was agreed that a 'Publications Exchange' Working Group would be set up within the Informatics Commission, led by Peter Matthews, with close liaison with the Bibliography Commission, led by PD. TF intends to do this in September, and invites all attendees and the Editors and Librarians of other caving organisations to regard themselves as part of this new Working Group.

David Checkley and Trevor Faulkner