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INTERNATIONAL HIGH-ENERGY PHYSICS PREPRINT NETWORK EMPHASIZES INSTITUTIONAL EXCHANGE

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August 1969

ABSTRACT

An international preprint distribution system for high-energy physics is now in operation. It emphasizes mutual exchange of preprints by institutions. At each institution the preprints are made available to the researcher by a "preprint library." This approach has the advantage of rapid dissemination and of being inexpensive. The effort and expense of profiling for selective dissemination of information or of running a preprint exchange are avoided. The burden of seeing the preprints he wants falls on the researcher.
INTERNATIONAL HIGH-ENERGY PHYSICS PREPRINT NETWORK EMPHASIZES INSTITUTIONAL EXCHANGE

High-energy physics in the last couple of years has been working out an approach to preprint exchange that is inexpensive and assures rapid dissemination. Its approach differs from either the preprint exchange or selective dissemination of information (SDI) in placing the burden of getting at the preprints he wants largely upon the researcher.

The system works like this: Institutions whose researchers produce preprints in high-energy physics mutually agree to send one another each preprint as soon as it is off the press. Some are sent air mail. At each institution a "preprint library" is established which agrees to receive these preprints and to assure that they are seen by the researchers who might be interested. In many places these preprint libraries are formal units of a technical library; in others they are an individual--a researcher, a department head, a department secretary--who has agreed to serve as contact point. The preprints are circulated, or displayed and the researcher gets the habit of dropping in to see what has come in; every day if he is that eager, or once or twice a week if that's often enough for him.

So that both preprint libraries and individuals can be sure that they do see every preprint in high-energy physics, a master list of recently issued preprints in particles and fields (PPF) is distributed in the United States and the "greater western hemisphere," which includes Australia and Japan, by the Library at the Stanford Linear Accelerator.
(SLAC). Included in PPF is a list of "Anti-Preprints" which supplies references to published papers formerly listed in PPF as preprints. (See illustration showing sample pages.)

In Europe the accession list of the European Center for Nuclear Research (CERN) serves much the same purpose. This list has been issued for several years, primarily to European scientists and institutions. Reprint libraries or individuals can request from the issuing institutions the reprints they haven't seen. PPF is available to preprint libraries and individuals.

A major advantage of the system is that you don't have to set up and maintain individual or group profiles as you do in SDI system or preprint exchange centers. Nor do you have to get the preprints reproduced for exchange as you do at the exchange centers. It is a barebones system. The extra effort or money required is very little, since many of the institutions had one another on their mailing lists anyway, and preprint libraries had been springing up spontaneously at many organizations in recent years. The expensive "profiling activity" is left to the researcher himself: he goes, he looks, he reads what he wants to read, he gets copies made.

Big disadvantage is that the system does not provide tailored service for the individual or group. However, the author's sending his preprints to physicists interested in his work, who he knows will read them, is encouraged. Here at Berkeley, for example, we hope he will keep the individual mailings down to 25 or less; but the important point is that he not send copies off to gather dust on another physicist's desk and eventually to be tossed unread into the wastebasket.
A strong selling point for the evolving system is that its concept originated with the physicists themselves and they continue to be its proponents. They have been worried for several years about preprints having gotten out of hand. The institutional preprint exchange had been evolved between the major laboratories of the U. S. Atomic Energy Commission and other physics research laboratories throughout the world over many years. Then the Division of Particles and Fields of the American Physical Society became interested in formalizing the network and senior members of the Division began to be active in setting up workable procedures.

An unexpected side benefit is that accumulated PPF's serve as a reference and control device for preprints in high-energy physics. Both preprint libraries and individuals collect the yellow sheets, use them for reference, and won't part with them! PPF and the annihilation list give a full documentation of what has happened to an article submitted to a journal, from original submission through publication.

Seed money from the Division of Technical Information of the U. S. Atomic Energy Commission helped launch Preprints in Particles and Fields--the weekly announcement of preprints issued SLAC. It has been offered free since January 1969 and will soon become available for subscription by individuals or groups, probably at the same price to each.

A preprint system such as this might work well for other disciplines or subdisciplines as tightly knit as high-energy physics, where institutional cooperation is or can be established. It shows what can be done using established organizations and channels with a little seed
money, active cooperative effort, and direction and backing from a society. People who put heart and enthusiasm into the effort as well as time are needed to make the program successful. Credit for success of the PPF program goes primarily to A. H. Rosenfeld at Berkeley, and to Louise Addis, Rita Taylor and Bob Gex at SLAC.
Preprints in Particles and Fields

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Report No.</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Authors</th>
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<tr>
<td>BNL-13436</td>
<td><strong>MULTITHEORETICAL DYNAMICS AT NON-VANISHING VALUES OF MOMENTUM TRANSFER.</strong> Jun 1969. 10p.</td>
<td>A. H. Mueller (Brookhaven); J. J. Muzinich (Brookhaven and Rockefeller U.)</td>
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<td>CALT-68-102</td>
<td><strong>SPIN COUPLINGS IN QUARK GRAPHS.</strong> Jul 1969. 10p.</td>
<td>R. Carlitz (Cal Tech)</td>
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<tr>
<td>CERN-TH-1059</td>
<td><strong>CROSSING CONSTRAINTS ON PH PARTIAL WAVE AMPLITUDES.</strong> Jul 1969. 10p.</td>
<td>Ralph Roskies (CERN)</td>
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**Anti - Preprints**

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<tr>
<th>First Author</th>
<th>PPN No.</th>
<th>Partial Title, Date, Report No.</th>
<th>Publication Info.</th>
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<td>Albert, G. A. &amp; L. Bertocchi</td>
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<td><strong>SLC</strong></td>
<td><strong>SLC Library</strong></td>
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A list of preprints issued in high-energy physics is issued once a week. When the paper previously issued as a preprint is published in a journal, the bibliographical information is given in the anti-preprint list.
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