International Union of Crystallography

Owing to a printer's error the final two pages of the lists of keywords which appeared in the September issue [Acta Cryst. (1992), A48, 785-790] were printed out of sequence. The complete lists are reproduced here.

Keywords for the Database of Crystallographers and the World Directory

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The International Union of Crystallography will set up a world database of crystallographers. The next issue of the World Directory will be a by-product of this database.

The aim is to allow any scientist to retrieve useful information on other scientists: addresses, interests . . . . The database will be accessed by e-mail and later via telnet sessions. Security will be enforced to ensure that the data are not used for non-scientific purposes.

One of the main uses is to find specialists on given topics. This means that it will be possible to search the database by keywords and these must be defined in advance. The present list has been established on the basis of the keywords used in the eighth edition of the World Directory. Some additional keywords corresponding to new fields have been added. Some, too specific or misspelled, have been suppressed. Altogether there are about 1500 keywords.

Scientists will be able to use their own keywords for a better definition of their fields of interest but electronic searching of the database will be based on this printed list.

The collection of data will start at the beginning of 1993 and instructions will be distributed by the national Sub-Editors.

The list is divided into three parts: – Methods, Properties and Applications – Compounds – Attributes. The Attributes list must be used in conjunction with the other two lists and defines additional keywords for a better description of entries in those lists.

I hope that everybody will find appropriate definitions in the present lists. For maximum efficiency of the search process it is necessary to bear in mind that a too strict definition will be useless. This is one of the key points for the success of this database.

Methods, Properties and Applications

This list contains the keywords for methods of study, properties (physical, chemical, biological, . . . ) and applications. It may be used with words defined in the Attributes list.