

## REPORT OF THE $^{14}\text{C}$ DATA BASE WORKSHOP

RENEE KRA

The  $^{14}\text{C}$  Data Base Workshop met at the Twelfth International Radiocarbon Conference on June 26, 1985 in Trondheim, Norway. The workshop was called because of the growing need for a universal  $^{14}\text{C}$  data base.

The principal objectives of such a data base are:

- 1) to upgrade and update files, *ie*, maintenance of a current record of corrected dates, both published and unpublished;
- 2) to provide access to users in an open exchange via a telenet system, or modem, floppy diskettes, printouts, or published indexes;
- 3) to form a network of cooperating contributors, *ie*, an international commission to provide data on a geographic basis;
- 4) to publish data both annually as the *Radiocarbon* index and at random as a cumulative index in geographic and/or temporal units.

The principal goals of the  $^{14}\text{C}$  Data Base Workshop were:

- 1) to develop a high-level format for entries to the  $^{14}\text{C}$  Data Base. Some samples of data base entry records were submitted for consideration (eg, see Fig 1);
- 2) to establish a network of geographically defined  $^{14}\text{C}$  data bases through an appointed commission. Each commissioner will be responsible for:

- a) developing a  $^{14}\text{C}$  data base for his/her geographic area;
  - b) contributing the data to the central data base to be housed at the *Radiocarbon* office at Yale University. However, *Radiocarbon* will not be held responsible for the maintenance of, nor will it provide financial support for, the data base. The central data base enterprise should be considered an endeavor totally separate from the journal;
  - c) seeking financial support for the project;
- 3) to select a  $^{14}\text{C}$  Data Base Commission. The following commissioners were named:

Renee Kra—coordination and management of the Data Base  
R E Taylor—United States  
Roger McNeeley—Canada  
R L Otlet and J D Wilcock—United Kingdom  
Henry Polach—Australia  
W G Mook—The Netherlands  
Bernd Kromer—Federal Republic of Germany

Commissioners for other geographic areas will be selected in the near future. It was agreed that the Radiocarbon Data Base should charge a fee for data base service. A suggestion was also made that laboratories should add a few dollars for each sample fee to support the project. Both private and state agencies will be approached for primary sources of funding.

Workshop participants set a time limit of one year to complete the first phase of the project.

The following resolutions were made:

- 1) The 12th International  $^{14}\text{C}$  Conference endorses the establishment

**<sup>14</sup>C DATA BASE RECORD**

**Country:**  
**State, Prov, Co, Dist:**  
**Site name:** **Site type:**  
**Series:** **Discipline:**  
**Geographic coordinates:**  
**Sample material:**  
**Lab no.:** **Sample no.:** **Other:**  
**<sup>14</sup>C date:** **<sup>13</sup>C value:** **Other:**  
**Calibrated range:**  
**Calibration curve:**  
**Culture, period:**  
  
**Provenience:**  
  
**Submitter's comment:**  
  
**Laboratory comment:**  
  
**References:**  
  
**Coll by:** **Date:**  
**Institution:**  
**Subm by:** **Date:**  
**Institution:**  
**Publication of date:**

Fig 1. Proposed high-level format for entries to the <sup>14</sup>C Data Base (fields may be abbreviated)

of a  $^{14}\text{C}$  Data Base Commission composed of all those concerned with the development and implementation of  $^{14}\text{C}$  data bases.

2) The 12th International  $^{14}\text{C}$  Conference endorses efforts to establish a high-level universal format for the minimum data entry common to all laboratory data bases.

3) The 12th International  $^{14}\text{C}$  Conference endorses efforts to secure support for the operation of these data bases from whatever source providing that such effort be coordinated through the  $^{14}\text{C}$  Data Base Commission.

Present:

Renee Kra (Chair)	W G Mook
J D Wilcock (Secretary)	Jerry Olson
G Bonani	R L Otlet
R J Drimmie	Barbara Ottoway
Jacques Evin	Dilette Polach
Steinar Gulliksen	Henry Polach
D D Harkness	Minze Stuiver
Lauri Kahola	R E Taylor
H Kajola	J C Vogel
T W Linick	

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