

COMMISSION 27 OF THE I. A. U.
INFORMATION BULLETIN ON VARIABLE STARS

Number 3422

Konkoly Observatory
Budapest
16 January 1990
HU ISSN 0374 - 0676

**IAU ARCHIVES OF UNPUBLISHED OBSERVATIONS OF
VARIABLE STARS:
ELECTRONIC STORAGE AND RETRIEVAL OF DATA**

New data can now be submitted to the IAU Archives electronically by means of tape, diskette or electronic mail. Copies of certain files already existing in the the Archives can also be sent to astronomers in electronic form.

1. Introduction

The Archives of Unpublished Observations of Variable Stars was created to provide permanent archives in different parts of the world. The Archives can replace lengthy and expensive tables in scientific publications by a single reference to the archival file number. Furthermore, many valuable observations are never used for scientific publications, and the Archives makes such observations available to other astronomers at a time when they might become very important. Information on existing files can be found in the *Publ. Astron. Soc. Pacific* (e.g. Breger 1988) and *Bull. Inform. CDS* (e.g. Jaschek and Breger 1988). Paper copies of existing files can be obtained from one of the three archives:

Dr. P. Dubois
Centre de Données Stellaires
Observatoire de Strasbourg
11, rue de l'Université
F-67000 Strasbourg
France

P. D. Hingley, Librarian
Royal Astronomical Society
Burlington House
London, W1V 0NL
Great Britain

Dr. Yu. S. Romanov
Odessa Astronomical Observatory
Shevchenko Park
Odessa 270014, USSR

New files can be submitted by mailing five copies of the cover sheet (listing a reference to a published paper or details of the data) as well as three paper copies of the data to the coordinator (Michel Breger at the address given at the end of this announcement).

2. How to submit new files by electronic means.

Astronomers wishing to submit new files electronically should contact the coordinator in order to obtain a file number. After the file number has been received, the astronomer can submit the contents of the cover sheet as well as the data to the Centre de Données Stellaires by magnetic tape, diskette or electronic mail. The Centre requests that a copy of the data should also be sent to the Centre in paper form. Information on how to communicate with the Centre is given below.

The Centre de Données Stellaires will mail paper copies of both the cover sheet and the data to the other two branches of the Archives in Great Britain and USSR as well as the coordinator.

3. How to obtain copies of existing files electronically.

Copies of some existing files can be obtained electronically free of charge by contacting the Centre de Données Stellaires (see below). Lists of the available files in the Archives are announced regularly (*IBVS*, *Bull. Inform. CDS*) and detailed reports on the file contents are published in the *Publ. Astron. Soc. Pacific*. In the future these lists will contain information on which files are also available by electronic means.

Copies of all existing files can, of course, still be requested in paper form from the three archives.

4. How to communicate with the Centre de Données Stellaires.

Data can be submitted to the Centre on paper as well as in machine-readable form. The following specifications should be observed:

Files: pure ASCII,

Text processor file: None or standard Latex only,

Magnetic tape: Nolabel. A description of the tape should be provided (number of files, block size, LRECL, content etc.),

Diskette: MS/DOS format only, 5¼ inch: densities 360K or 1.2M, 3½ inch: density 720K only,

Electronic Mail: SPAN CDSXB1 : : IAU27.

Furthermore, a paper copy of the cover sheet and the data should also be provided to the Centre de Données Stellaires in order to check the electronic file received for possible problems of truncation, character transformations etc.

Michel Breger (1), Carlos Jaschek (2), Pascal Dubois (2)

(1) Institute for Astronomy, Türkenschanzstr. 17, A-1180 Wien,
Austria

(2) Centre de Données stellaires, 11, rue de l'Université,
F-67000 Strasbourg, France

References

Breger, M.: 1988, *Publ. Astron. Soc. Pacific* **100**, 751
Jaschek, C., Breger, M.: 1988 *Bull. Inform. CDS* **35**, 93