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Commission on Powder Diffraction

At its 14 August 1987 meeting in Perth, the General Assembly of the IUCr established a Commission on Powder Diffraction. This is an action widely welcomed and considered by many to be long overdue.

In early 1986, the IUCr Executive Committee established an *ad hoc* committee to assess world-wide interest and, if it be sufficient, to prepare specific proposals for the General Assembly to consider in determining whether to establish a Commission on Powder Diffraction. The Terms of Reference proposed by the committee and the Executive Committee and accepted by the General Assembly are:

- i. To advise the IUCr in organizing or sponsoring meetings, schools and Congress sessions on powder diffraction and related subjects.
 - ii. To promote and coordinate scientific exchange between countries in the field of powder diffraction.
 - iii. To cooperate with other IUCr Commissions on matters concerning powder diffraction.
 - iv. To cooperate with other international bodies interested in powder diffraction and allied subjects.
 - v. To promote useful interactions of the IUCr with the large world-wide body of X-ray and neutron powder diffractionists.
- iv. To promote the scientific growth and development of the field of powder diffraction.

Since the members of the *ad hoc* committee became the initial members of the Commission, they were able to meet three times during the Congress to make plans for Commission projects. Among those being given first consideration are

- Program exchange 'bank'.
- Satellite meeting for the 1-990 IUCr Congress at Bordeaux.
- Workshop on the Rietveld method (to be held between August 1988 and August 1989).
- Newsletter.
- Round-robin with the Rietveld method involving both X-ray and neutron data and several samples.
- New book(s), possibly resulting from workshop(s).
- Powder diffraction sessions at 1990 IUCr Congress at Bordeaux.

The members of the new Commission on Powder Diffraction are:

R. A. Young	USA (Chairman)
Z. Bojarski	Poland
R. J. Hill	Australia
A. W. Hewat	France
J. I. Langford	UK (Secretary)
P.-E. Werner	Sweden
T. Yamanaka	Japan.

In addition, Dr L. Frevel serves as the JCPDS-appointed representative to the Commission.

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Crystallographic Databases

Crystallographic Databases - Information Content, Software Systems, Scientific Applications (221 pp., A5 format), edited by F. H. Allen, G. Bergerhoff and R. Sievers, has recently been published by the Data Commission of the International Union of Crystallography. It contains descriptions of the Cambridge Structural Database (organic and metal-organic compounds), the Inorganic Crystal Structure Database (ICSD), the Metals Crystallographic Data File, the Protein Data Bank, the JCPDS Powder Diffraction File, the Database of Order-Disorder Structures, and the NBS Biological Macromolecule Crystallization Database.

The various software systems currently available are also considered: CSD (Cambridge), CRYSTIN (ICSD), NBS*SEARCH, JCPDS Search/Match, Chemical Database System (SERC, UK), and the Canadian Scientific Numeric Database Service (CAN/SND; NRC Ottawa).

Additionally there is an overview of crystal structure analysis for non-specialists, a survey of printed information sources in crystallography, and a bibliography of scientific applications.

This is the first publication to be devoted to this important new area of crystallography.

Personal orders (US\$20.00, £12.50, Swiss Fr30, Netherlands Guilders 40; payment with order, air-mail postage included) should be addressed to Dr J. N. King, Executive Secretary, International Union of Crystallography, 5 Abbey Square, Chester CH1 2HU, England. [Institutional order forms will be fulfilled and invoiced at an additional cost of US\$5.00 or the equivalent.]