

Although ICEDIS⁽¹⁾ grew out of the working party set up by the Joint Serials Committee of the PA and ALPSP the cooperation with subscription agents has enabled us to establish an international committee to develop the use of EDI⁽²⁾ within the serials industry. Both Fritz Schwartz of Faxon, who spoke to you earlier this week and Chris Beckett of Blackwell's, who is speaking on Thursday are members of this committee which for my sins I currently chair.

We are beginning to look at using EDI to exchange data including claims for missing copies but this is unlikely to work well unless publishers issue details of publication dates in a machine readable form which can be used by agents and perhaps also librarians to monitor despatches. I would like us to discuss these issues today and perhaps consider whether a checklist of publication dates set up on JANET or some similar host would be of use to librarians and whether an online service to agents could be similarly used. Pergamon offer a checklist of publication dates in printed form, or by fax if required and also make it available on magnetic tape to some agents. See following examples:

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Volume 45, No 1,	19 December 1989
No 2	31 January 1990
No 3	5 February 1990
No 4	30 March 1990
No 5	30 March 1990
No 6	27 April 1990
No 7	21 June 1990
No 8	9 July 1990
No 9	8 August 1990
No 10	31 August 1990
No 11	28 September 1990
No 12	12 October 1990

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Volume 36, No 1,	9 January 1990
No 2	2 March 1990
No 3	23 March 1990
No 4	27 April 1990
No 5	6 June 1990
No 6	25 July 1990
No 7	3 August 1990
No 8	13 September 1990
No 9	28 September 1990
No 10	21 November 1990
No 11	29 November 1990
No 12	10 January 1991

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Volume 18, No 1,	26 February 1990
No 2	31 March 1990
No 3	31 March 1990
No 4	25 May 1990
No 5	19 June 1990
No 6	29 June 1990
No 7	8 August 1990
No 8	13 September 1990
No 9	28 September 1990
No 10	29 October 1990
No 11	14 December 1990
No 12	10 January 1991

The present unstructured list of the kind which Pergamon offers is not easy to use and for the benefit of agents and librarians it would be helpful I believe if publishers issued similar information in a standard format.

The Faxon Company is currently carrying out a pilot project with 7 publishers using EDI to handle data which initially covers claims and changes of address and Blackwell is to undertake over the next few months a pilot project on publication dates⁽³⁾ together with 5 publishers and in association with 5 other subscription agents.

Faxon tell me that they alone handled 1,500,000 claims last year.

Pergamon will begin testing an experimental claims package this week which presents claims to its computer file and replaces and/or replies as necessary using a series of personal but computer generated reply letters. It will prepare labels while adjusting the stock records as necessary and recording a claims history on the computer file. It also enables my subscription fulfilment staff to view both the customer records and the stock and despatch records on the same terminal screen at the same time.

This is relevant to the work being undertaken by subscription agents such as Faxon and Blackwell and others since it will later interface to receive and respond electronically to claims sent to us by agents using EDI, (Electronic Data Interchange).

Someone at the British Library is also monitoring publication dates with a view to publishing an internal report and if any one from the BL has information about this perhaps they would in due course report on progress.

Pergamon is prepared to replace missing issues, if claimed within 6 months of publication, and we would much prefer to receive claims on this basis, rather than receive a claim each month for a monthly journal which coincides with the publication date. Such claims need to be

investigated to check whether or not the order is recorded, but much of this work is an unnecessary chore if the order is recorded and the issue of the journal is already in transit to subscribers.

(1) - ICEDIS

International Committee for Electronic Data
Interchange for Serials (formerly the Joint Serials
Committee of the PA & ALPSP)

The Publishers Association

&

The Association of Learned & Professional Society
Publishers

(2) - EDI - pilot project

FAXON COMPANY INC

with 7 publishers:

ELSEVIER

KLUWER

NATIONAL RESEARCH COUNCIL
OF CANADA

PERGAMON

PLENUM

ROYAL SOCIETY OF CHEMISTRY

WILEY

(3) - PUBLICATION DATES - pilot project

B.H. BLACKWELL LTD

with 5 publishers:

ELSEVIER

PERGAMON

TAYLOR & FRANCIS

TURPIN TRANSACTIONS

WILEY

and 5 other agents:

DAWSON

EBSCO

FAXON

READMORE

SWETS

**Edinburgh 1992 - Heriot-Watt
University A Winter Journey In
Search Of Future Conference
Venues 12 & 13 February 1991**

*Undertaken by
Brian Cox & Albert Prior*

Wearing our UKSG conference organisers hats we resolutely decided that two days in February should be set aside for a trip north to finalise details at York for this years' conference, check UMIST at

Manchester as a location for 1994 and continue discussions with Heriot-Watt in Edinburgh for 1992. (Reading for 1993 is already under our belt). Snow arrived the day before almost forcing us to postpone but we decided to see how far we could get.

7.30 a.m. 12 February

Boarded the "Swetsmobile" on a crisp snow covered Oxfordshire morning and drove north to Manchester. UMIST is building a new conference centre which we have now booked for 1994 but because of our growing exhibition activities we will need to use adjacent buildings as well as the