

**IMA**  
**Committee for Internet and Computer Applications**  
**(CICA)**  
**2006 annual report to IUGS**

The creation of a Committee for Internet and Computer Applications (CICA) within the IMA was accepted by the IMA Council at the 18th IMA General Meeting in Edingurgh, September 2002, to replace the former IMA Working Group on Databases and Computer Applications.

The objectives of this committee are to collect, document and help improve computer and internet resources in the field of mineralogy, including databases and software. The committee supports activities of the IMA and its WG/commissions by providing advice and expertise on issues related to databases and the IMA website.

The IMA website

Since the new version of the IMA website was tranfered to Nancy in 2003, the CICA is not directly involved in the maintenance and developpement of the IMA website anymore. It is suggested that the IMA website should evolve towards a dynamical form, in order to facilitate the routine maintenance (posting new documents, changing addresses, adding links...) without having to modify html code. It is also suggested that the possibility of hosting by a of third party commercial provider should be investigated.

An interchange format for mineralogical databases

A long-term goal of the IMA-CICA committee is to start developing an interchange file format for the various mineralogical databases. Such an ambitious project of attempting to develop a worldwide standard could only be conducted within the scope of the IMA. A communication entitled "*A universal interchange file format for mineralogical data: What could be in there?*" (available on the IMA website) was presented at the MM5 meeting in Paris in 2004. The urgent need for such mineralogical databases standards was pointed out by Mauthner et al. (2006) in a communication at the IMA meeting in Kobe, Japan.

The CICA failed to animate the "mineralogical databases" project in 2006, and it should renew its members in 2007 in order to build an more active team. The participants will be in charge of (i) defining subsets of the format (e.g., interchange format for spectroscopic data, chemical data...) and (ii) insuring the compatibility with other existing database formats.

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