

**THE FIRST AMERICAN WORKSHOP ON THE INTERNATIONAL
RADIOCARBON DATA BASE***

RENEE KRA

The First American Workshop on the International Radiocarbon Data Base (IRDB) was held March 25–26, 1988 at the Peabody Museum of Natural History, Yale University, New Haven, CT.

The primary goals of the highly successful two-day planning conference were:

1. To find a home for the IRDB
2. To launch a fund-raising campaign
3. To form an American Advisory Board
4. To select two pilot projects

Several options were presented regarding the central location of the IRDB which are presently being explored. Plans should solidify within the next few months.

Many excellent suggestions were made for possible sources of funding, most of which fall under the category of foundation and federal grants. The prospect of establishing an endowment fund seemed particularly attractive in terms of minimizing future fund-raising efforts. Other solutions for covering continuing operating costs might include a substantial subscription rate for annual updates and a surcharge in the range of \$5.00 for every sample submitted for radiocarbon dating.

The following represents the Officers and Committees that comprise the American Advisory Board:

Executive Director	Renee Kra, Yale
Finance Committee.....	Frank Hole, Yale Harold Borns, NSF Curt Beck, Vassar Andrew Moore, Yale
Computer Committee	Steven LeBlanc, Southwest Museum Dave Hastings, NOAA Philip Chase, University Museum Pat Kirch, Burke Museum Roger McNeeley, GSC
Scientific Coordinating Committee	Liam Kieser, Isotracer Lab Austin Long, Arizona John Vogel, RIDDL Group Erv Taylor, UC Riverside Harold Borns, NSF Dave Hastings, NOAA

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The interdisciplinary pilot projects and task forces are:

1. New World Quaternary
Vertebrate Localities.....Richard Morlan, ASC
Roger McNeeley, GSC
George Frison, Wyoming
John Speth, Michigan
Erv Taylor, UC Riverside
Michael Moseley, Florida
Kim Smiley, S Illinois

2. Paleoenvironment and
Human History in the
Southeast MediterraneanHerbert Haas, SMU
Fekri Hassan, Washington State
James Weinstein, Ithaca, NY

Concentrated discussions resulted in other achievements and agreements, including:

1. A consensus on the immediate need of the IRDB.
2. The establishment of an American Division (comprising North America, Mesoamerica, the Caribbean, and South America) of the larger, global organization.
3. The multidisciplinary nature of the project.
4. An open-ended format that requires a minimum data-entry structure and allows for variability and convertibility based on individual or regional needs.
5. Maintenance of quality control and high scientific standards in the creation of the Data Base.
6. A consensus on the need for an independent IRDB that is optimally closely associated with the journal, *Radiocarbon*.
7. Agreement on the vital role that *Radiocarbon* will play in the future for generalized scientific reporting.

The American Division of The International Radiocarbon Data Base welcomes your suggestions, contributions of data, or ideas on any aspect of this project. Please address all communications to:

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