

DIVISION XII / COMMISSION 5 / WORKING GROUP FITS

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PROCEEDINGS BUSINESS MEETING on 17 August 2006

The business meeting began with a brief review of the current rules and procedures of the WG, which are documented on the WG web page. Four regional FITS committees have been established by the WG, covering North American, Europe, Japan, and Australian/New Zealand, to provide advice to the WG on pending proposals. While it is recognized that this committee structure might need to be revised to provide representation to other regions, the current system is working well, and there were no motions to make any changes at this time.

The chairman then summarized the main accomplishments of the WG during the past three years:

- Re-organized the officers and membership of the WG.
- Established written rules and procedures.
- Approved two new MIME types for use with FITS files.
- Appointed a 4th Regional committee (Australia/New Zealand).
- Approved the variable-length array and TDIMn conventions for use with binary tables.
- Approved World Coordinate System Paper III (on spectral axes).
- Approved support for 64-bit integers in FITS files.
- Released a new version 2.1 of the FITS Standard reflecting the recent approved changes to FITS.
 - Approved the HEALPix sky projection WCS convention.
 - Created a new Registry of FITS conventions on the Web.

The meeting ended with a discussion of the activities that the WG should undertake during the next 3 years. High priority activities included:

- Add more conventions to the Registry.
- Convene a technical panel to make minor updates and clarifications to the FITS Standard document.
 - Update (or retire) the 10 year old FITS User's Guide.
 - Transfer material from the NRAO FITS web site to the FITS Support Office web site.
 - Support the completion of WCS Paper IV (on distortions).
 - Help draft a new WCS Paper V on time coordinates.

William D. Pence
chair of the Working Group