[1]

Style of IUCr Commission WWW pages

An organisation gives a good impression of itself by using a uniform house style in the presentation of its documents. The Web pages of the IUCr conform to some simple style rules that impose a certain uniformity on the top and bottom of its pages, while allowing relative freedom to design the body of the document according to different needs. We suggest that Commissions adopt similar rules of style. An example of the preferred approach is given here.

Some design principles

Although the adoption of the suggested style is not mandatory, the prospective Commission webmaster may find it useful to consider some of the design principles underlying the suggestions here.

- **Browser independence:** Recall that not all browsers render a web page in the same way. Do not use features specific to a particular browser if these render the page **unreadable** in other browsers.
- **Network bandwidth:** Recall that users may have limited bandwidth available for downloading information (because of congested international links, use of serial modems, or hardware restrictions). Do not overload pages with large graphics images.
- **Use graphics sparingly:** Users may surf the web with automatic graphics download disabled, or they may be using systems that don't support graphics (*e.g. lynx*). Do not rely on graphics to convey information; and always include an "alt" attribute in <img> tags to indicate the intention of the graphic.
- **Familiarity:** The user will recognise and be comforted by recurrent design motifs. We use two features to reassure and orient the user within the hierarchy of IUCr web pages.
  - The document title (which shows up in the browser title bar or in some location window) always begins with the string **(IUCr)** (except for the home page itself, which drops the parentheses). This also in some cases groups together within a browser history window all IUCr pages that have been visited.
  - The top of each page contains a number of icons of the same size and style that provide links to the IUCr home page and to other relevant pages. We try also to supply icons of the same size for related off–site links (not always easy!).

Commission home page

- Header: the <title> should give the full name of the Commission, and should begin with **(IUCr)**, since this is what is stored in browsers' history windows.

```
<!DOCTYPE HTML PUBLIC "-//W3C//DTD HTML 3.2//EN">
<html>

<head>
<title>
(IUCr) Commission on Crystallographic Nomenclature
</title>
</head>
```

Technical Note: The <!DOCTYPE... tag declares that the document conforms to the HTML 3.2 specification, and should only be included if it *does* so conform.

- The document should begin with the IUCr logo (linked to the IUCr home page), a horizontal rule, and the title of the Commission within a first–level header tag, **<H1>**. The logo may be

[1] /iucr–top/welcome.html

fetched from Chester[2] for local installation.

```
<a href="http://www.iucr.ac.uk/iucr-top/welcome.html">
<img alt="[IUCr Home Page]" src="iucrhome.gif"></a>
<hr>
<h1><center>Commission on Crystallographic Nomenclature</center></h1>
```

It may also be useful to include the Commission logo, as available from Chester[3], and the name and contact details of the Commission Chair:

```
<center><img alt="Commission Logo" src="cnom.gif"></center>

<P>
<center>Chairman: <b>S. C. Abrahams</b> (USA)</center>
<P>
<center>Physics Department<br></center>
<center>Southern Oregon State College<br></center>
<center>Ashland<br></center>
<center>OR 97520<br></center>
<center>USA<br></center>
<center>Telephone: 1(541)4827942<br></center>
<center>Fax: 1(541)5526415<br></center>
<center>Email: sca@tao.sosc.osshe.edu<br></center>

<hr>
```

Technical Note 1: Notice that the link suggested here (`http://www.iucr.ac.uk/...`) differs slightly from the published URL for the IUCr home page by the inclusion of an extra `/iucr-top` component. This should work as usual at the present time (though please do test the link and report any problems to me); but it is intended in the future to use this URL to redirect requests to the nearest mirror server as the IUCr information network extends.

Technical Note 2: The <center> tag is used in conformance with the HTML3.2 specification. Currently few browsers support this; with most browsers which do *not* support <center> the text will align against the left margin. This is considered acceptable (if not as attractive as the centred version). This is an example of the need to be aware of the behaviour of different browsers.

- The body of the document may then be filled in.
- The document concludes with a horizontal rule, date of update (if appropriate for pages that are liable to change), and an address link for the Commission and/or IUCr webmasters. It may also be appropriate to include the logo of the organisation hosting the pages at this point. And don't forget the closing **</html>** tag!

```
<hr>
Updated 18th September 1996<P>
<address>
<a href = "/iucr-top/.html/bm.html">IUCr Webmaster</a>
</address>

</body>

</html>
```

IUCr Home[4]

Commission on Crystallographic Nomenclature

2 http://www.iucr.ac.uk/~bm/icons/iucrhome.gif
3 http://www.iucr.ac.uk/~bm/icons/
4 http://www.iucr.ac.uk/welcome.html

Chairman: **S. C. Abrahams** (USA)

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Material chosen by the Commission Webmaster

Updated 18th September 1996

IUCr Webmaster[5]

Subsidiary pages

- Header: the <title> should be informative, and should again begin with **(IUCr)**.

```
<!DOCTYPE HTML PUBLIC "-//W3C//DTD HTML 3.2//EN">
<html>

<head>
<title>
(IUCr) Macromolecular Crystallography Computing School
</title>
</head>
```

- The body of the document should start with small logos (85 x 35 pixels) referencing at least the IUCr home page, the Commission home page, any other relevant home page and a horizontal rule. A collection of the available logos may be found at Chester[6]. Additional logos for the Commission home page may be supplied upon request to bm@iucr.ac.uk.

```
<body>
<a href="http://www.iucr.ac.uk/iucr-top/welcome.html">
<img alt="[IUCr Home Page]" src="/logos/iucrhome.gif"></a>
<A HREF="http://rosebud.sdsc.edu/projects/pb/IUCr/IUCrCC.html">
<img alt="[Computing Commission Home Page]" src="ccom.gif"></a>
<hr>
```

Compare the two examples below. The first is the original design for a page maintained by the Computing Commission.

International Union of Crystallography (IUCr) Computing Commission [7]

Macromolecular Crystallography Computing School

PROCEEDINGS
August 1996
Western Washington University. WA [8]

Sponsored by the San Diego Supercomputer Center, and

[5] /iucr–top/.html/bm.html
[6] http://www.iucr.ac.uk/~bm/icons/index.html
[7] http://rosebud.sdsc.edu/projects/pb/IUCr/IUCrCC.html#Events
[8] http://www.wwu.edu/

The Collaborative Computational Project for Protein Crystallography (CCP4), Digital Equipment Corp., Merck Research Laboratories, MSI, The National Science Foundation (NSF) Silicon Graphics Inc., The US Department of Energy.

Last Update: September 02, 1996 by Phil Bourne [9]

The author who presented the paper is underlined.

Editorial *Phil Bourne and Keith Watenpaugh*

...

Student Presentations

The second example shows how the page looks when the IUCr style rules are adopted. In addition, tags within the body of the text for positioning text and selecting font sizes have been eliminated to ensure browser independence, though a case could well be made for including them so that text is centred in those browsers which support the ability to do so, giving a more pleasing result in those cases without harming other browsers, that would simply ignore such tags.

IUCr Home [10] Computing Commission [11]

Macromolecular Crystallography Computing School

PROCEEDINGS

August 1996

Western Washington University. WA [12]

Sponsored by the San Diego Supercomputer Center, and The Collaborative Computational Project for Protein Crystallography (CCP4), Digital Equipment Corp., Merck Research Laboratories, MSI, The National Science Foundation (NSF) Silicon Graphics Inc., The US Department of Energy.

The author who presented the paper is underlined.

Editorial *Phil Bourne and Keith Watenpaugh*

...

Student Presentations

SDSC: A National Laboratory for Computational Science & Engineering

Updated 2nd September 1996

Phil Bourne [13]

[9] http://www.sdsc.edu/~bourne/pb.html
[10] /iucr−top/welcome.html
[11] http://rosebud.sdsc.edu/projects/pb/IUCr/IUCrCC.html
[12] http://www.wwu.edu/
[13] http://www.sdsc.edu/~bourne/pb.html

- As for the main Commission page, the document concludes with a horizontal rule, date of update (if appropriate for pages that are liable to change), and an address link for the Commission and/or IUCr webmasters. The logo of the organisation hosting the pages may also be included at this point:

```
<hr>
<img alt="[San Diego Supercomputing Center]" src="sdsc.gif"><br>
Updated 2nd September 1996<P>
<address>
<A HREF="http://www.sdsc.edu/~bourne/pb.html"><I>Phil Bourne </I></A>
</address>
```

And don’t forget the closing **</html>** tag!

Updated 18th September 1996

IUCr Webmaster[14]

[14] /iucr−top/.html/bm.html