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| Proposal TO CREATE A “HISTORY PAGES” SECTIONON THE ITU-R WEBPAGE |

Overview

Material on the history of ITU activities as a whole, its Sectors, advisory groups, study groups (SGs) and so on, is accessible to the general public as well as participants, and is thus of great importance in publicizing the successes of ITU and its different departments.

As regards the activities of ITU as a whole, the History of ITU portal (<http://www.itu.int/en/history/Pages/Home.aspx>) contains much interesting and instructive historical material. With regard to the activities of ITU Sectors, however, the ITU general site has considerably less material and there is almost no historical information on the activities of the study groups. The sparse material that does exist in this area is spread unevenly among the Sectors. For example, the site includes a list of CCITT and ITU-T study groups by study period starting in 1956, including the names of study group chairmen (<http://www.itu.int/en/history/Pages/ITU-TStudyGroups.aspx>), but there is no comparable list for ITU-R. The webpages of ITU-R and its study groups do not include any history sections. Available historical material, in particular on the activities of ITU-R and its study groups, is dispersed among various issues of *ITU News* *Magazine* but is virtually inaccessible to the general public in any consolidated form. The history of ITU-R study group activities has thus in effect disappeared from the general history of ITU.

Proposals

The proposal is to create historical sections (“history pages”) within the webpages of ITU-R and its study groups. An ITU-R history section could from the outset include a copy of the historical booklet published in 1978 by CCIR, ITU-R’s predecessor, to mark its 50th anniversary (and now something of a “rare edition”). The history sections of the study group webpages can also include substantive and detailed accounts of all aspects of a study group’s activities since the time of its creation (including the history of any predecessor bodies), as well as essays devoted to particular milestone events in the life of the study group, including material on the history of important ITU-R Recommendations and Handbooks, tributes to individuals who have made major contributions, and so on. Lists of ITU-R study groups should be compiled by study period and should include the names of chairmen of working parties, interim working parties (IWP) and task groups, as well as study group chairmen. Since the main burden of the work involved in developing and approving ITU-R draft Recommendations, Reports and Handbooks, on the basis of contributions from administrations and ITU-R Sector Members, falls on the chairmen of the working parties and other such groups, it behoves ITU-R to pay due tribute to the considerable work done by those individuals over many years.

These sections could also include copies of articles of a historical nature from *ITU News Magazine* that are not posted on the ITU site, as well as references to articles that are posted (see for example <https://www.itu.int/itunews/issue/2000/02/radiocomm.html>), so that readers who are interested can find them easily.

Historical material for these webpages should be prepared in the main by volunteers from among current and former participants in the activities of ITU-R and its study groups, calling as little as possible on BR staff in order to avoid imposing an extra workload on them, unless BR wants to undertake a particular historical project on its own initiative. BR will obviously be responsible for the administration of history sections of websites run by ITU-R and its study groups. Bearing in mind the same concern to avoid additional work, BR should not be made responsible for the accuracy and reliability of information presented in published historical material; such responsibility should be borne by the authors, and this should be specifically noted in the history sections.

On the other hand, it may be possible to involve ITU’s Library and Archives Service, by agreement, in the work of compiling lists of ITU-R study groups by study period, including the names of chairmen of study groups, working parties, and other such groups. That Service has done heroic work to convert much ITU archive material into electronic format, including documentation pertaining to the various ITU conferences, plenary assemblies and so forth, since the foundation of the Union (see the materials available at (<http://www.itu.int/en/history/Pages/ListOfITUConferencesAssembliesAndEvents.aspx>). The Library and Archives Service, with its access to all ITU archives, may therefore be best placed to perform these tasks efficiently and in the shortest possible time.

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