

IAA Study Group Status Report

Responsible Commission: 6

Study Number and Title: S 6.3 Interstellar Message Construction

Short Study Description (repeat from Study Group Proposal):

Overall Goal: To identify promising opportunities for expanded research in interstellar message construction, based on a review of extant methods as well as an exploration of innovative alternatives. In the process, new participants to the discussion will be identified, increasing the diversity of perspectives incorporated.

Intermediate Goals: Organize discussions in conjunction with meetings on interstellar message design sponsored by partner organizations, leading to recommendations for future research opportunities. Encourage participants in the discussion to publish on the topic.

Progress:

The study group moved into the final stages of its work, with the culmination of three peer-reviewed volumes based largely on symposia and conference sessions organized by the study group since its inception. All three volumes are projected to be published in fall 2008. Contributors to these volumes are providing recommendations based on their scholarly essays in these books. The books are *Culture in the Cosmos: Extraterrestrial Life and Society* (Oxford, UK and New York: Berghahn Books), *Between Worlds: The Art and Science of Interstellar Message Composition* (Cambridge: The MIT Press), and *Archaeology, Anthropology, and Interstellar Communication* (Washington, DC: NASA).

Website Study Information up to date? (Study Group Membership, Study Plan and Schedule):

Yes.

Issues requiring resolution? (recommend approach):

None.

Product Deliveries on Schedule? (If modified explain rationale):

The study group requests an additional one-year extension to maximize the impact of its final report, which will feature recommendations based on the three volumes cited above. These recommendations will be linked to background and rationale from associated chapters.

Proposed timetable for completion of project deliverables: formal recommendations by the study group, referenced to relevant sections of these three volumes, will be reviewed by Commission VI at the March 2008 IPC meeting in Paris and presented to the Board of Trustees of the IAA for endorsement. Pending such endorsement, the formal recommendations will be publicized during the 2008 IAC in Glasgow, which is expected to include good representation of the scholars whose work informed the formal

recommendations, and also in conjunction with publication of the three volumes cited above in the months immediately following the Glasgow IAC.

Study Team Member Changes? (List any Study Team Members that you wish to discontinue, and provide names plus contact coordinates of any Members you wish to add on the second page of this Study Update form.) Note: Complete contact information including email, tel. and fax must be provided for all additions. Only Members with complete contact information will be listed and receive formal appointment letters from the IAA Secretariat.)

No changes.

Name of person providing Study Group Status (Study Group Chair or Co-Chair):
Douglas A. Vakoch, Co-Chair

Status Report Date:
September 22, 2007