

IMA OUTREACH COMMITTEE

Mission

The mission of the Outreach Committee is to aid the IMA Council in identifying programs and activities that have an external focus with the objective to improve the visibility, understanding and appreciation of the IMA and its related commissions and Working groups.

The primary purpose of the Outreach Committee is to recommend and develop research activities, useful and educative outreach materials that will be used by IMA society members, mineralogists, and to a larger extent by Earth scientists including teachers. This will help the interest in Mineralogical Sciences and complementary Earth Sciences. Emphasis will be concentrated on developments of tools for mineralogists, including database development, interactivity between mineralogists through IMA websites development, and communication to members and non-members.

Membership

The Outreach Committee will include members representative of the different fields of activity that have been defined for the Outreach Committee.

The following subcommittee is already included in the Outreach Committee:

- 1) IMA Databases on Mineralogical Properties - chaired by Bob Downs
- 2) Optic Instruments - chaired by David Hirsh
- 3) IMA Archives & History
- 4) IMA Website Development

The following activities could be also comprised within the Outreach Committee work for the IMA development:

Commissions and Working Group Interface
Museum Interface
Liaisons with Associations, foundation and Meetings
Academic Interface, Education and Public Information
History, traditions and Archives
Publications
Strategic planning

All the members have to be appointed by the IMA Council. The IMA Communication officer will be a member of the Committee as well as the IMA Webmaster, and delegate members from the Commission on New Minerals, Nomenclature and Classification (CNMNC) and the Commission on Museums.

To foster leadership, the Outreach Committee should comprise members in charge of activities and duties recognized by the outreach committee and by the IMA Council. The chair of the committee, with the approval of the board, could appoint additional members if deemed appropriate and beneficial. Likewise, to achieve his mission, each member of the outreach committee, could be help by other scientists through the existence of transient subcommittees.

The term of the office should be four years for the Chair of the Outreach Committee. At the end of his term, the chair shall make recommendations to the IMA President regarding which committee members are ready for chairing the Outreach Committee,

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and recommend a new chair. Should there is no suitable candidates within the committee, the chair shall make a recommendation from outside the current committee. The outgoing chair could serve one additional year as the past chair.

Relations to the IMA Council

The Outreach Committee Chairs will advise the IMA Council on Outreach issues and submit a biannual report to the IMA secretary, one at the fall of the year to be included in the IMA annual report, the second prior to the IMA Council Meeting. If the Outreach Committee wishes to make a recommendation which requires a vote of the council, in addition to the biannual report, the Outreach Committee should submit to the IMA secretary a statement of the proposed motion and one or two paragraph stating why the motion should be passed. Motions and supporting documentation should be submitted three weeks before the Council Meeting.

Meetings

The Outreach Committee will meet at least once a year. The committee will meet as necessary by electronic mails and telephone conference calls.

Annex: Information on the different fields of activity of the Outreach Committee which could be developed.

1) IMA Database of Mineral Properties

The duties of the IMA Database on Mineral Properties include managing the content of the website at www.ruff.info/ima, that interactively displays the list of all the IMA CNMNC minerals recognized as valid species with accessory information and links and its functions. It is actually a database and JAVA program that is downloaded and used through a browser. A professional programmer is funded by the RRUFF project to write the computer code for the website.

The main items are as follows:

1. Managing the definitive list of mineral names and their chemical compositions. Our highest priority is to ensure that this information is perfect. The effort primarily involves two components, a) identifying new mineral information, from the CNMNC website b) keeping track of changes to the existing minerals.
2. A goal of the committee is to identify the original descriptive articles for each mineral, and obtain and post the associated PDF.
3. The ability to group minerals into various classification schemes is important. To this end the website has invoked the web-design concept of tags.

Additional goals for the next year include:

1. Get others involved! especially from the IMA Commissions and Working groups
2. Streamline the access to the database so that other websites and individuals can make optimal use of it.

Chair : Bob Downs - rdowns@u.arizona.edu

Current members :

Marco Ciriotti - marco.ciriotti@libero.it.

Frédéric Hatert - fhatert@ulg.ac.be

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Pat Mooney - prmooney@email.arizona.edu
Ernie Nickel - Ernest.Nickel@csiro.au

2) Optic Instruments - chaired by David Hirsh

3) IMA Archives & History

The IMA should develop his history, collecting information on IMA as well as on Mineralogy sciences. This has to be written and displayed on the IMA Website and/or on any other support. A chair should have contacts in all the countries to collect the available information.

4) IMA Website Development

The aim is to develop a dynamic website for IMA and to increase interactivity with the websites of IMA Commissions and Working Groups.

Other possible objectives:

- Commission and Working Group Interface

To get information from the Commission and Working groups on their communication aspects as well as on their development, involvement in meetings, and new prospective which are of interest for the IMA development.

- Museum Interface

There is specific aspects to the maintenance of mineral collection within museums. How IMA could help mineralogical museums and be more visible through the action of the Outreach Committee is the target of this specific item. International projects could be established to get funds.

- Technological Information - Databases

Its mission is to make available information on different tools: apparatus, software, hardware, and to provide or to coordinate databases to be used by mineralogists, other scientists, and by the public.

- Publications

There are information to provide on IMA and books or reviews to publish following the work of Commissions and Working groups. There is also some special publications to prepare due to the involvement of the IMA Commissions and Working groups in meetings. This topic already involved the IMA communication's officer.

- Links with Associations, Foundation, and Meetings

Its role is to:

communicate with the scientific associations and with IUGS

contact associations for participating to meetings and to propose to the IMA council a planning for the involvement of IMA in meetings

- Academic Interface, Education and Public Information

The mission of the Communication and Public Information chair is to improve visibility, understanding and appreciation of the IMA, especially for science management.

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The primary target audience consists of our profession colleagues, as well as of the IMA society members. A second target should be constituted by students, teachers, and the general public interested in Earth Sciences and visiting Mineralogical Museums, and scientific Websites. There is a specific development of information towards University, colleges and teachers, organizing website of interest on Mineralogy and related sciences

The main Public relations consist of (1) taking steps that contribute to effectively branding our profession in minds (2) issuing press release, (3) responding to requests for assistance from reporters and writers, (4) building relationships with our society members, commissions, working groups, committees, and experts.

- Strategic planning

This mission is to coordinate, originate, and develop the marketing aspects of projects of the Outreach committee. He should develop the liaisons between the Outreach members, but also between society members, individuals and to develop information. His results is of critical importance for the IMA Council to Develop a comprehensive Strategy and Implementation Plan.