

FOREWORD

The present volume contains invited papers, oral and poster contributions presented from 29 to 31 May 2000 in Section 11 (*Astronomical Data Acquisition, Processing and Storage: Modern Facilities*) of the *Joint European and National Astronomical Meeting* (JENAM) held in Moscow, Russia.

In the meeting, the importance of keeping astronomical data for further usage by the community at large was stressed once more. The key to the growth of our science is actually the sharing of information and data throughout the community. The technical aspects and the scientific importance of catalogues, databases, archives of raw and calibrated data were very effectively discussed, and a wide overview of the various projects was given. But the Moscow meeting did not forget the importance of correct data acquisition and processing, essential to guarantee data quality, integrity and completeness in our archives and databases. Many interesting presentations dealt with these aspects.

As typically happens during JENAM meetings, astronomers from EAAS member countries exchanged their experiences with other EAS members: but this time there was also the possibility for the scientists from all over the world interested in the various aspects of astronomical data management to meet in Moscow. This cross-fertilization was particularly interesting, since achieving knowledge about each other's activities is not always easy. Getting to see many colleagues discussing implementations or methods among each other in the corridors during the coffee-breaks is a measure of success for a meeting.

We wish to thank the Boards of EAS and EAAS that allowed us to hold Section 11 of JENAM, the Russian Academy of Sciences and especially the Moscow State University, where the JENAM meetings were located and where many JENAM participants were temporary hosted for the conference time. It is also a pleasure to thank the organizers for all the scientific, technical and material aspects which made the meeting successful and pleasant.

We wish to acknowledge for their contribution in preparing the programme of the meeting the colleagues serving in the Scientific Organizing Committee: Heinz Andernach, Helene Dickel, Françoise Genova, Peter Linde, Oleg Malkov, Ernst Raimond,

Willem Wamsteker.

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