MathSciNet Matters

The "MathSciNet Matters" column appears in the *Notices* several times a year. It includes information on new features of MathSciNet and on the underlying Mathematical Reviews Database, together with tips on how to use MathSciNet to make the most of its richness of structure and content.

Champion Reviewers. The review forms an important core of the information available in MathSciNet. It is too bad there isn't *Reviews* in the MathSciNet name somewhere, as there is in the paper publication *Mathematical Reviews*. The assembly of more than 12,000 reviewers worldwide performs an invaluable service to the mathematical community by reading mathematical papers and books, and writing thoughtful reviews of their contents. These reviews help guide researchers through the literature. Here we salute those reviewers who have written reviews consistently over a very long span of years. Tom Apostol wrote his first review in 1951, and is still an active reviewer. That's 54 years of service. Other active reviewers who have been reviewing for at least 50 years include: R. Finn (first review in 1955), R. G. Langebartel (1949), B. N. Moyls (1948), and F. Ursell (1955). Albert J. Coleman wrote many reviews. The first was published in 1946 and the last in 2001: fifty-five years later. Adolph W. Goodman (1915–2004) wrote reviews from 1946 to 1995: forty-nine years. Then there are the long-term reviewers whose reviews appeared in Volume 1 of MR (1940). Dirk Struik wrote reviews up to 1999. H. S. M. Coxeter wrote reviews until 1998. There is John Todd, who wrote reviews through 1997; Paul Erdős, through 1996; A. H. Taub, through 1996; J. J. Burckhardt, through 1995; F. J. Murray, through 1993; R. P. Boas Jr., through 1992; Saunders Mac Lane, through 1991; Z. W. Birnbaum, through 1991; D. H. Lehmer, through 1990; M. Marden, through 1990; and J. C. Oxtoby, through 1990.

Long-time reviewers can take a long-term view. J. S. Frame's review of a 1940 part I paper of Coxeter appeared in Volume 2 of MR (MR0002181). Forty-six years later, he reviewed Coxeter's part II paper (MR0774558).

Have you tried the Clipboard? The Clipboard in MathSciNet is an excellent way to collect verified references for a review or a paper or other bibliography. Simply click the "Add to Clipboard" button from a headline list or full item. If you are signed in, the Clipboard can be saved indefinitely. Otherwise it is saved for 24 hours. The contents of the Clipboard can be viewed by clicking the *Clipboard* link on the side panel of search screens, or the *View clipboard* link at the top of results screens. To download to your computer, select a format and then click *Text* next to the format menu. The resulting page can be saved to your computer using the browser File-Save Page As. The Clipboard can be viewed and saved in a vanilla format (Citations (ASCII)), in BibTeX, in AMSRefs or in EndNote.

Factoid. On January 6, 2006, there were 121,856 reference lists in MathSciNet. These lists contained almost 1.9 million individual references. The number of reference lists grows daily.

Reviewers Corner. Have you ever wondered why you get the items that you are selected to review? This match-up process is called *assignment* in the argot of MR. At the MR offices in Ann Arbor there is a very cool computer application that aids the process by which a Mathematical Reviews editor assigns a particular paper or book to a reviewer and that item is put into the hands of the chosen reviewer. However, the heart of this assignment is what you have told us, possibly a long time in the past, about what your mathematical/reviewing interests are. The information that you gave us was boiled down to a list of classifications from the MSC (Mathematics Subject Classification, 2000) and to a set of comments with regard to your interests. It is a good idea to review these classes and interests from time to time. A new interface to reviewer data and to review submission was released at the end of 2005. It makes it easy to review the data we have for you on MSC classes and interests and to make changes, if needed. You may also review and update name, postal address, and email information. Even if you don't have a review to submit, you will find it interesting to go to `www.ams.org/mresubs`, Sign In, and check out the new interface. All that is needed is an AMS Web Account, which most reviewers already have, and your reviewer number in your Web Account profile. Give it a try.

—Norman Richert
Mathematical Reviews