

**How to refer to a source or designate a new one**  
from the IAU Commission 5 Working Group on Designations  
(for astronomical sources of radiation outside the solar system)  
(current chair, Marion Schmitz)

(version 25 February 2000)

**In general** all source listings should always contain positional information and/or a second designation next to a principal designation in order to avoid ambiguities which can arise with a single designation.

**Existing designations** when used in listings, should never be altered and a bibliographical reference for the designation should be given.

**When creating a new catalogue of sources.** please consider **registering for an acronym**, preferably before your new objects become referenced (even informally).

**When creating new designations**, such as for newly discovered source(s), the following procedure is recommended:

1. Think up an acronym of at least three characters and check the on-line *Interactive Dictionary of Acronyms* to be sure your acronym is unique.
  2. Think up a sequence numbering
    - (a) running number, or
    - (b) based on the position, e.g. a chain based on *truncated* 2000 coordinates *preceded by the letter J* (example: J1234+5612)
- Other examples and rules are in the *IAU Recommendations for Nomenclature*, including helpful hints.
  - Consult representatives of the Clearing House if problems arise and specific advice is desired.

## References

- *IAU Recommendations for Nomenclature* is revised every three years;
- *Interactive Dictionary of Acronyms* is updated on a regular basis (i.e. weekly)

The IAU Recommendations for Nomenclature is also available on the World-Wide-Web via your favorite web browser at the URL address:

**<http://cdsweb.u-strasbg.fr/iau-spec.htx>**

World-Wide-Web access to the *Interactive Dictionary of Acronyms* is managed by the *Centre de Données de Strasbourg* (CDS) at the URL address:

**<http://cdsweb.u-strasbg.fr/cgi-bin/Dic>**; mirror installations are available at <http://vizier.nao.ac.jp/viz-bin/Dic> <http://vizier.cfa.harvard.edu/viz-bin/Dic>

Latex and PDF versions of *How to refer to a source or designate a new one* and *IAU Recommendations for Nomenclature* are accessible by anonymous ftp at Internet node **[cdsarc.u-strasbg.fr](ftp://cdsarc.u-strasbg.fr)**.

(URL ftp://cdsarc.u-strasbg.fr/pub/iau)

## **Clearing House**

Advice on specific problems may be obtained from members of the *Clearing House*, a subset of the Working Group on Astronomical Designations of IAU Commission 5 (current chair, Marion Schmitz). Representatives are listed at the end of the *IAU Recommendations for Nomenclature*.