

# JACoW CHAIR REPORT TO STAKEHOLDERS 2021

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## Abstract

We are in the second year affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. The year 2020 has seen all JACoW conferences either postponed or turned into full virtual events. While members of the accelerator community have not met for months, numerous efforts have been introduced to return to full in-person events.

This 2021 JACoW Chair's report is again presented outside of the usual Stakeholders' Meeting, due to the online-only format of IPAC'20 and '21. This brief document will present any updates since last year's report [1].

## FROZEN IN CARBONITE

Very few conferences took place in 2020 and they were all virtual. Many were postponed to 2021 or even 2022. The situation hasn't changed much this year, apart for the number of events (Fig. 1).

### 2021

1. [ICAP'21](#), Darmstadt, Germany
2. [PCaPAC'21](#), Czech Republic, 15-19 Mar - 🚩 postponed to 2022
3. [IPAC'21](#), Foz do Iguazu, Brazil, 23-28 May - 🚩 Virtual
4. [SRF'21](#), Michigan, USA, 26 Jun - 2 Jul - 🚩 Virtual
5. [MEDSI'20](#), Chicago, IL, USA, 26-29 Jul - 🚩 Virtual
6. [IBIC'21](#), Gyeongju, Korea, 12-16 Sep - 🚩 Virtual
7. [RuPAC'21](#), Alushta, Russia, 27 Sep - 1 Oct
8. [HB'20](#), Fermilab, Batavia, IL, USA, 4-8 Oct - 🚩 Virtual
9. [ICALEPCS'21](#), Shanghai, China, 16-22 Oct - 🚩 Virtual
10. [COOL'21](#), Novosibirsk, Russia, 1-5 Nov - 🚩 Virtual

### 2020

1. [ECRIS'20](#), 28 Sep - 1 Oct - 🚩 online vconf
2. [IBIC'20](#), Santos, Brazil, 14-18 Sep - 🚩 online vconf 📱
3. [LINAC'20](#), Liverpool, UK, 30 Aug - 4 Sep - 🚩 postponed + virtual
4. [IPAC'20](#), Caen, France, 10-15 May - 🚩 online vconf

Figure 1: JACoW conferences 2020-21 [2]

The low number of conferences, coupled with the difficulty to organise the remote processing of papers, has created great difficulties in proceedings publication. At the present time, only three sets of conference proceedings have been published since last October: ICALEPCS'19, NA-PAC'19 and IBIC'20 (Fig. 2).

JACoW activities however didn't cease. The Board of Directors met each month and progress has been made in several areas that were identified as weak points in the last Chair's Report. In the next paragraph we will explain in more detail what has been done and what is still to materialise.

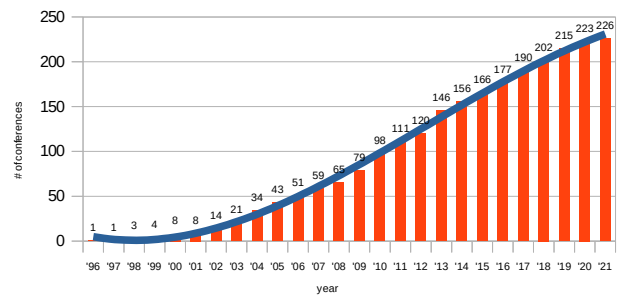


Figure 2: Published sets of proceedings.

## THE FORCE AWAKENS

The 2020 Chair's report provoked several Stakeholders to contact the Board of Directors with expressions of support. Of note, within a couple of months JACoW was contacted by a representative of the major German accelerator laboratories, by the IPAC Coordination Committee (IPAC-CC) and by various conference series.

We have seen a steady effort to find solutions for the weak points identified in the previous report. In this report we return to the open issues, present what has been done and what to expect in the near future.

### Indico-SPMS Merge

Following the 2020 Chair's report a Working Group was set up to test the functionality of "Indico for JACoW". A fictitious conference instance, JFIC (JACoW Fake Indico Conference) was created, roles were assigned to experts in the JACoW Team and the typical workflow of our conferences is being studied, using Indico instead of SPMS [3]. This experiment is under way at the time of writing. With the precious support of the Indico Development Team, any step and action is being analysed and tested. While using the tool, documentation is being written with the aim of providing a first version of a Manual for future JACoW conferences using Indico. When encountering issues (bugs, functionalities not respecting the original specifications, etc.) the Indico Development Team is asked to evaluate the possibility of introducing the enhancement needed. Small changes are performed immediately, while major development is put in a queue of feature requests on Indico's Github.

It is expected that JACoW-Indico will be in production in 2022 (FEL) and 2023 (IPAC). The JFIC effort is of extreme importance in order to have a reliable tool in

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place before being adopted by these two events. While many minor enhancements can be carried out by the Indico Development Team within their normal activity, major development is still needed for Indico to mimic all the SPMS features. Discussions have taken place during the past months among some stakeholders, in particular IPAC-CC, IPAC'23, CERN and the Indico team. Following a formal request, the CERN Directors of ATS and IT have agreed to co-fund an associate for a further three years to finalise the convergence project. The JACoW Board of Directors is indebted to CERN for its huge demonstration of support to the benefit of the whole accelerator community. The additional developer will start work in the larger Indico Development Team and will tackle all the missing features identified in the 2016 integration document and during the JFIC testing.

One major development will be the transfer of the **JACoW Central Repository** of Profiles and Accounts to a new system. A thorough analysis of existing open source software will be the initial step towards a migration of this precious data into future, modern and powerful tools. The CERN IT-CDA-IC section will carry out the first search: the resulting candidates will then be discussed with JACoW, both in terms of functionality and sustainability. Integration of the chosen tool with Indico will be part of the convergence project for the next two years; after having migrated the data, checked and tested the new functionalities and compliance with JACoW procedures, the existing Central Repository SPMS instance will be decommissioned.

### *JPSP-NG*

The JACoW Proceedings Scripts Package [4] is the principal tool that allows the editor-in-chief to build the final version of the material to be published on JACoW.org. This set of scripts was tailored to the SPMS. However during a JPSP Working Group discussion at the 2019 Team Meeting, it was decided that a new generation of tools would be needed with the adoption of Indico. Even though in the past the JPSP were tested with a metadata export from Indico, and that a possible enhancement could be envisaged to work with modern versions of Indico, a new set of scripts, built from scratch with modern technologies (e.g., web services) would be the best solution in terms of technical result, efficiency, maintainability and future development.

Unfortunately JACoW has no financial resources for its development. Since its inception, the institutes taking part in the Collaboration gradually developed the main tools found to be needed. As CERN takes up the development of Indico for JACoW conferences, we will be grateful for assistance from other laboratories. The initial estimation of the JPSP-NG effort is about 1.2 FTE, spread over three years (with more work at the beginning and a lighter part at the end for maintenance and bug fixing).

### *Reprocessing of Old Proceedings*

After a year this important task is still on hold due to limited resources and partial unavailability of the SPMS instances for some old conferences. The cease of FNAL

support and SPMS hosting has seen the switching off of many SPMS installations which have been exported to archives only. To complete the reprocessing, the archived instances need to be transformed back into live instances at either the KEK or CERN Regional Support Centres, updated to the latest version of the SPMS and then re-processed. To complete this task more time and effort will be needed in the coming years.

### *Cat Scan and Reference Search Tool*

These two tools have proved to be of extreme utility since IPAC'19. IPAC'21 has contributed to their development which has been performed by two developers at ANSTO introducing new features to the platforms to accommodate more support for LaTeX in the Cat Scan tool, and the addition of a BibTeX reference output in the Reference Tool just to name two of the many upgrades. Unfortunately for the Collaboration these people have left the laboratory. The support for further development of Cat Scan (which is an automated tool to analyse the source files uploaded to conferences) and the Reference Search Tool (which speeds up the act of writing good formatted and comprehensive references in contributions) is currently under discussion. The code is to be published together with all the other open tools on JACoW's github, new developers are to be identified.

### *JACoW's 2021 Team Meeting*

The 2020 Team Meeting was cancelled due to COVID-19. After almost two years since the last meeting, the need to get together and work on the future of JACoW and its conferences is reaching critical levels. Following discussion the Board of Directors has decided to attempt the organisation of an in-person meeting. We know that many people will not be able or willing to travel yet, so remote participation for a part of the sessions will be arranged. Due to the workshop-like nature of our meetings, the main focus will remain on in-person participation.

The 2021 Team Meeting will take place in Trieste, Italy, from 13 to 17 of December. In-place participation of representatives of all the conferences in the JACoW Collaboration, especially the ones soon to take place, is highly recommended: please consider that, according to the JACoW Charter, attendance at the Team Meetings by the JACoW Team members (essentially the Editors-in-chief or designated representatives) is a boundary condition for each conference series. Details about the meeting programme will be published soon and circulated to the team.

### *JACoW Management*

Two positions in the Board of Directors, the Chair and Coordinator, were to be renewed in 2020. Due to COVID-19 it was decided to extend the mandate for an additional year (Table 1). Elections, as usual, will then take place during the 2021 Team Meeting. Active participation in the Collaboration is the major pillar for it to work and expand. We make a call to all the laboratories

in JACoW to propose candidates for these two important positions.

Table 1: Board of Directors Composition

<b>Name, Role</b>	<b>Years</b>
Ivan Andrian, <i>Chair</i>	2018-2021
David Button, <i>Deputy Chair</i>	2020-2022
Christine Petit-Jean-Genaz, <i>Coordinator</i>	2018-2021
Johan Olander	2020-2022
Regis Neuenschwander	2020-2022

## A NEW HOPE

The JACoW Collaboration has always been an alliance based on good will from Team Members and in-kind contribution from the laboratories. Table 2 summarises the existing services that contribute to the creation and maintenance of good conference proceedings. Without these services JACoW would just not exist and every conference should rely on expensive commercial publishing services, with the high risk of dispersing the publication among numerous different providers.

We believe that updating and expanding the existing services is the natural and most convenient way to guarantee successful publishing of proceedings in the post-COVID-19 era.

## CONCLUSIONS

A process of evolution, or even transformation, of some parts of JACoW is definitely under way. In a few years from now we will benefit from new tools to produce better proceedings for our conferences. Support from member laboratories has been confirmed and some effects are already visible. This process, however, cannot be as fast nor as complete as we would like. The Collaboration needs more resources to complete the development of the new tools that will be available to all our conferences in parallel with Indico. The continuity of the work carried out by the Board of Directors together with the whole Team needs to be acknowledged and reinforced by new active members. After the negative impact of COVID-19, the restart of our conferences needs to be accompanied by an acceleration of process inside the Collaboration. Many

JACoW officers will continue the tasks undertaken through the coming years, however getting new names in the vacant places of the Board of Directors is now urgent and strategic.

Table 2: List of JACoW Services

<b>Service</b>	<b>Provider</b>
Proceedings Repository & Search	CERN
Central Repository (Accounts and Profiles)	CERN
SPMS Regional Support Centre (Europe)	CERN
SPMS Regional Support Centre (Australia)	KEK
SPMS Regional Support Centre (Americas) – <i>Formerly at FNAL</i>	KEK
JACoW.org Website Hosting	Elettra
Paper File Server (Europe)	PSI
Paper File Server (North America)	JLab
Reference Search Tool [5]	ANSTO
Cat Scan Tool [6]	ANSTO
JACoW Indico [7]	CERN

For the second year in a row JACoW is calling for a clear reaction from its Stakeholders. We are a Collaboration, and only through collaborative action will we be able to sustain the service to the community that is the primary goal of JACoW since the beginning. We will come to the 2021 Team Meeting with renewed vigour and look forward to seeing as many representatives of the Collaboration as possible.

## REFERENCES

- [1] <https://www.jacow.org/Stakeholders/Reports2020>
- [2] <https://www.jacow.org/About/PastEvents>
- [3] <https://www.jacow.org/Editors/RunningJACoWConference>
- [4] <https://github.com/JACoW-org/JPSP>
- [5] <https://refs.jacow.org>
- [6] <https://scan.jacow.org>
- [7] <https://indico.jacow.org>