



INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL FOR RESEARCH AND INNOVATION IN BUILDING AND CONSTRUCTION

INFORMATION

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CIB Information Bulletin Survey

For some time now electronic copies of news articles as published by the CIB General Secretariat in the paper copy of CIB Information Bulletin, have been sent attached to e-mails to selected persons, assumed to be interested in the respective topic.

In addition a full electronic copy of the complete CIB Information Bulletin is published in the CIB home page. The table of Content of this complete CIB Information Bulletin, with hyper-linked titles of all included articles, is also made available to anyone whose e-mail address is available to the CIB General Secretariat.

In the immediate future the CIB General Secretariat will install electronic news groups to which people can subscribe - and un-subscribe - as a new basis for selecting persons who are to receive the electronic news articles depending on their own interest. In this context it was envisaged to stop printing and distributing the paper copy of the CIB Information Bulletin and to replace it by the above indicated electronic news distribution.

The underlying assumption being that:

- i) by now by far the majority of regular readers of the CIB Information Bulletin has access to the Internet and in fact has become accustomed to receiving such information electronically and
- ii) it will save CIB a substantial amount of money.

Through an electronic survey the opinion on this of the CIB Membership at large has been asked by a request to indicate their explicit preference to one of the following three options as concerns a possible continuation with the printing and distribution by mail of the paper copy of the CIB Information Bulletin emphasizing that it had to be realized that with all three options, the above indicated electronic system of news distribution will be in place; so a possible continued paper copy would be in addition to this.

Option 1. Full paper copy

Continuation with the current approach: in principle four paper copies of the CIB information Bulletin each year that include full copies of all published articles and that costs Euro 40.000 - 50.000 annually.

Option 2. Summary paper copy

Replacement of the current paper version of the CIB Information Bulletin by one that only includes very brief summaries of the articles that are published electronically: a far thinner paper version, the printing and distribution of which is expected to cost in the magnitude of Euro 25.000 - 30.000.

Option 3. Electronic news articles only

This includes stopping the production and distribution of the paper copy of the CIB Information Bulletin and having it replaced completely by the above-described system of electronic CIB news articles.

The outcome of the survey was that an overwhelming majority of CIB Membership opted for electronic news articles only (option 3). However, many who replied to the survey communicated that in their experience the CIB website is relatively slow and that consequently it sometimes simply takes too much time to download copies of the sent articles.

As a consequence the CIB Board at its Hong Kong meeting of early May 2002 made the decision that after this year not to continue with a paper version of the CIB Information Bulletin; this however under the explicit assumption that by then the CIB website will be reformatted and will then allow quicker access worldwide.