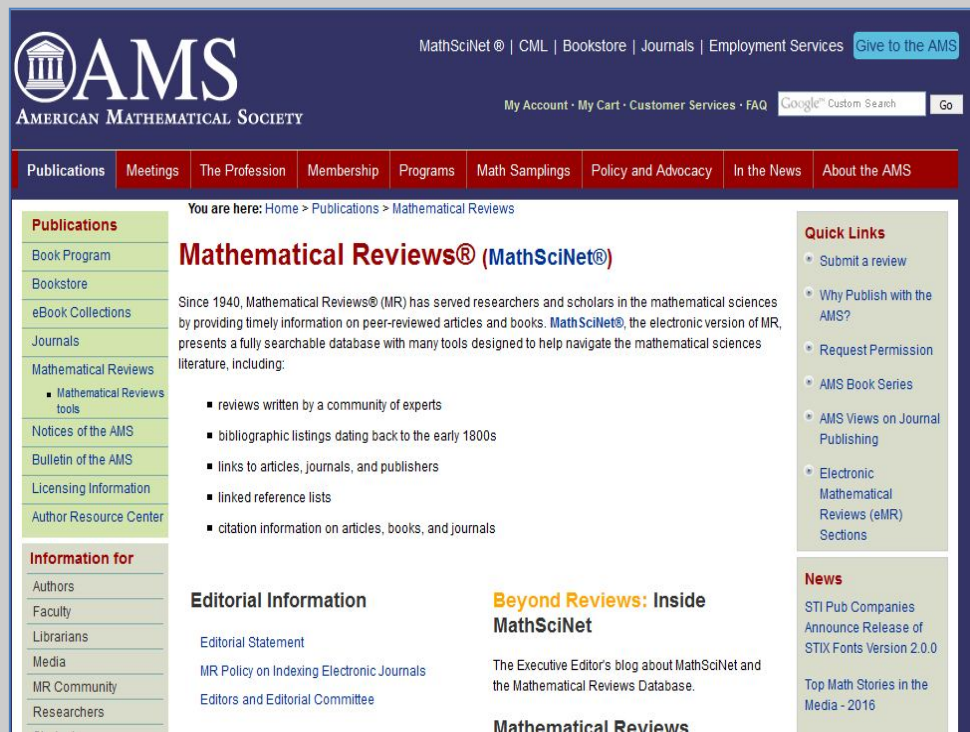


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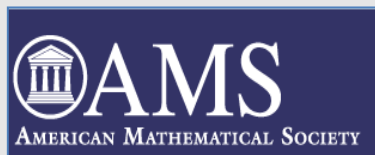
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Brief History

Mathematical Reviews was founded by Otto E. Neugebauer in 1940 as an alternative to the German journal *Zentralblatt für Mathematik*, which Neugebauer had also founded a decade earlier, but which under the Nazis had begun censoring reviews by and of Jewish mathematicians. The goal of the new journal was to give reviews of every mathematical research publication. As of November 2007, the Mathematical Reviews database contained information on over 2.2 million articles. The authors of reviews are volunteers, usually chosen by the editors because of some expertise in the area of the article. Mathematical Review and *Zentralblatt für Mathematik* are the only comprehensive resources of this type. (The Mathematics section of *Referativny Zhurnal* is available only in Russian and is smaller in scale and difficult to access.) Often reviews give detailed summaries of the contents of the paper, sometimes with critical comments by the reviewer and references to related work. However, reviewers are not encouraged to criticize the paper, because the author does not have an opportunity to respond. The author's summary may be quoted when it is not possible to give an independent review, or when the summary is deemed adequate by the reviewer or the editors. Only bibliographic information may be given when a work is in an unusual language, when it is a brief paper in a conference volume, or when it is outside of the primary scope of the Reviews. Originally the reviews were written in several languages, but later an "English only" policy was introduced. Selected reviews (called "featured reviews") were also published as a book by the AMS, but this program has been discontinued.

In 1980, all the contents of Mathematical Reviews since 1940 were integrated into an electronic searchable database. Eventually the contents became part of MathSciNet which was officially launched in 1996. MathSciNet also has extensive citation information.

MathSciNet is a searchable online bibliographic database that contains all of the contents of the journal *Mathematical Reviews* (MR) along with an extensive author database.

Scope and Coverage

MathSciNet, an online publication of *Mathematical Reviews* of the American Mathematical Society, combines powerful search functionality with the authority of a team of trained mathematicians, editors and over 19,000 active reviewers. MathSciNet contains information on over 3 million articles and books, with direct links to almost 2 million articles in over 1,800 journals. MathSciNet includes expert reviews, disambiguated author profiles, and citation information on articles, books, journals, and authors.

MathSciNet is an electronic publication offering access to a carefully maintained and easily searchable database of reviews, abstracts and bibliographic information for much of the mathematical sciences literature. Over 100,000 new items are added each year, most of them classified according to the Mathematics Subject Classification. Over 80,000 reviews are added to the database each year. Extending the MR tradition, MathSciNet contains almost 3 million items and over 1.7 million direct links to original articles. Bibliographic data from retro-digitized articles dates back to the early 1800s. Reference lists are collected and matched internally from

approximately 550 journals, and citation data for journals, authors, articles and reviews is provided. This web of citations allows users to track the history and influence of research publications in the mathematical sciences.

Kind of Information

MathSciNet is the electronic version of Mathematical Review which presents a fully searchable database with many tools designed to help navigate the mathematical sciences literature, including : reviews written by a community of experts, bibliographic listings dating back to the early 1800s, links to articles, journals, and publishers, linked reference lists, citation information on articles & books, and journals. MathSciNet's resources are essential for anyone doing research in mathematics or allied fields, from the undergraduate to the seasoned researcher. It can be used to: quickly get up to speed on a new topic, look up a researcher's body of work, find an article or book and track its reference list & research a math department to prepare for a job interview.

The introduction of the MathSciNet Web interface to the Mathematical Reviews Database provided an impetus to create additional author-individual database records from papers indexed or reviewed in Mathematical Review prior to 1985. A matching algorithm was employed to assign attribution of older papers to author-individuals already in the MR Database, based on exact string matches with known variations of an author's name. In cases where an author used one form of her or his name on papers written prior to 1985 (say "Smith, J. M."), but a different form of the name on later papers ("Smith, John M."), a new author-individual record for "Smith, J. M." was created in the MR Database. Tools are available to examine and combine author-individual records and to make these changes available on MathSciNet virtually overnight. MathSciNet users have also proved to be of invaluable assistance in this endeavor, and users are encouraged to notify Mathematical Reviews of any anomalies they notice in author information presented as a result of searches using Search the Author Database or clicking on an author name in a headline.

A helpful discussion about author identification, as it is presented in the MathSciNet interface to the Mathematical Reviews Database, can be found in the booklet MathSciNet--Mathematical Reviews on the Web: Guiding you through the literature of mathematics.

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Arrangement Pattern

Mathematical Subject Classification is used to separate each review article or topic for indexing & classifying and it is done by Mathematical Reviews editors.

Journals/Publications/Authors/Citations reviews are arranged by maintaining this classification scheme.

Remarks

MathSciNet which is the electronic version of Mathematical Reviews is the best guide for anyone doing research in mathematics or allied fields, from the undergraduate to the seasoned researcher.

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- Journal of Scientific Review (<http://www.srbmag.org/index.php/srbmag/index>)

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