# DISCUSSION

Authors: Vinard

Roger Bamkin: Your paper concludes that a *world format* is not possible, a neutral format is required. Could you expand on this? Do you perceive technical, organisational or other types of problem? Or is there a lack of a business case for the *world format*.

Daniel Vinard: My pessimism about a *world format* is based on realism. Of course a *word format* is highly desirable. However, in practice, the local structures of databases is tightly linked to the local requirements of users of the system (classes of materials, of properties, of users' requests etc). Therefore the only available possibility is to agree on a *neutral exchange format* that is sufficiently versatile for all existing database managers to agree to convert their data for purpose of exchange. Naturally, later on this *neutral exchange format* should become a model for future database management structures and functions.