Subject	**QSL Cards digital coding**		
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QSL cards digital coding

Introduction

Most of the data on QSL cards is filled in by computer, but only in human readable form so no automated use of this data is possible.

Background

The process of sorting QSL cards by hand takes a lot of time and manpower. Using 2D-codes technology, it may be possible to add some machine readable code to the human-readable data, in order to automate QSL card sorting processes for those QSL Bureaux wishing to do so.

Key point and proposal

Various 2D digital codes are available, with the potential of encoding an enormous amount of data. The goal is to define an IARU-standard for the addition of 2D-codes containing QSL data to paper QSL cards.

The main steps would be:
- to choose the best 2D-code for this use
- to define the fields that could be integrated into 2D-codes, based on the ADIF de-facto standard
- to define their encoding syntax
- to promote the use of such-defined 2D codes by logging / QSL-editing software, so that these defined 2D-codes are added to QSL cards along with the human readable data
- to encourage the development of specific applications for QSL Bureaux and/or QSL Managers

Recommendation

Establish an IARU workgroup to examine the possibility of defining an IARU standard for the addition of 2D-codes containing QSL data to paper QSLs.

The REF offers to lead this group.