1. Identification

1.1 Title   Structured System Variables structure - standing document

1.2 MDC proposer and sponsor
Proposer/Sponsor: Jon Diamond, Hoskyns Group

1.3 History of MDC actions

Date	Doc#	Action
February 94	X11/TG18/94-3	Approved by MDC as standing document
December 93	X11/TG18/93-4	Approved by MDC/TG18 (5:0)
February 92	X11/SC12/91-8	Approved by SC12 as standing document

2. Justification

2.1 Needs
ssvns need to be created in a consistent fashion so that the learning and usage of these is made as easy as possible. Guidelines for the creation of ssvns would assist this process.

2.2 Existing practice
A number of ssvn proposals have been made and significant effort has been expended in ensuring that a consistent approach has been taken.

3. Proposed Format
The structure for any ssvn should conform to the following pattern, where *object* and *objectref* are replaced by the reference to the appropriate ssvn:

    ^$name(objectref)

objectref : : = expr V object

when and only when object identified by objectref exists ^$name(objectref) has a value;

Either

all non-empty values are reserved for future enhancements to the standard.

or

all values of object are reserved for the implemetor.

or

all values of object are reserved for future enhancements to the standard with the exception of those starting with Z which are reserved for the implementor.

If additional levels need to be defined then these should be specified as:

    ^$name (objectref,expr V attribute,expr V value)

where attribute is a strlit and value is a variable value. In general *attribute* should have values starting with Z reserved for the implementor and possibly, those starting with Y for the user. There are no general rules regarding the allocation of values to *value*, however

being able to reserve those values starting with Y and Z as for other value ranges would be helpful.

There are no limits to the number of levels which could be defined for a ssvn.

The usage of nodes with three or more subscripts which have a second subscript value which is reserved for the MDC/implementor/user should also be reserved for the MDC/implementor/user.

The usage of an |environment| specification for an ssvn. for example A |environment| $JOB, is not automatic and should be explicitly specified if appropriate. The domain of meaning of environment needs to be carefully considered.

4. Issues, Pros and Cons and Discussion

February 1994
Discussion about meaning of objectref resulted in a relatively minor amendment.

December 1993 MDCC-E meeting
Some changes to previous proposal to reflect changes in ssvn formalisation and clarification as to the usage of environment.