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Open Meeting of the Commission on Journals

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This Open Commission meeting will cover the progress of IUCr journals (Acta Crystallographica Sections A-F, Journal of Applied Crystallography and Journal of Synchrotron Radiation) over the last triennium. The number of pages published in this period was 42074 compared with 48261 for 2005-2007 and 31521 for 2002-2004. The online submission and review system has been further developed during the triennium, and submission is now exclusively online, keeping publication times low across the journals. Highlights in the triennium include the publication of the 100000th article on Crystallography Journals Online and an impact factor of 49.9 for Acta Cryst. A. The move of Acta Cryst. E to full open-access publication has been a success with 11835 articles published in the triennium and this, combined with the continuing popularity of the hybrid open-access option for the other journals, has made the IUCr into an important open-access publisher. The triennium has also seen a number of high-profile retractions in the literature, and the end of 2009 saw the discovery, during routine testing of the checking software, of scientific fraud involving papers published in Acta Cryst. E. This problem emphasized the importance of the role of Co-editors and reviewers in making sure that all articles that are submitted for publication are carefully and thoroughly reviewed. Measures have been taken to improve the checking software as a result of experience with the falsified structures, but ultimately the quality of our publications relies heavily on the judgements our Co-editors make based on experience and competent advice. During the triennium, more than 160 Section Editors and Co-editors worked on IUCr journals. The work of all these dedicated colleagues and of the competent and equally dedicated staff at Chester is essential to the well-being of the journals and highly appreciated. Future plans for the journals will be presented, and there will be ample time for discussion of points raised at the session.

Keywords: journals publishing, IUCr journals, Commission on Journals

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Open Meeting of the Commission on International Tables for Crystallography

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This session will cover developments of the series International Tables for Crystallography. The series includes eight volumes, A through G and A1. All of them are available both in print and online. A Brief Teaching Edition of Volume A is also available in print. Since 2008, the second editions of Volumes A1 (Symmetry Relations Between Space Groups, edited by Ulrich Müller and Hans Wondratschek) and E (Subperiodic Groups, edited by Daniel Litvin and Vojtech Kopský) have been published, and the second edition of Volume F (Crystallography of Biological Macromolecules, edited by Eddy Arnold, Daniel Himmel and Michael Rossmann) will go to press in 2011. The sixth edition of Volume A (Space-Group Symmetry, edited by Mois Aroyo) is in preparation for publication in 2012 and a fourth edition of Volume C (Mathematical, Physical and Chemical Tables, edited by Richard Welberry) is planned. A new volume on powder diffraction to be edited by Chris Gilmore, Jim Kaduk and Henk Schenk is also in the planning stage. New volumes on magnetic symmetry groups (by Daniel Litvin) and on EXAFS have been proposed. Because of the spread of information on space-group symmetry into other volumes in the series, the new Chair of the Commission, Carol Brock, is considering expanding the scope of the Brief Teaching Edition of Volume A so that it would form an introduction to all those volumes in the series, and sections of volumes, that include information about symmetry groups. The volumes in the series are published by the IUCr in conjunction with a co-publisher. At the start of 2010, the IUCr's co-publishing contract moved from Springer to Wiley. Since then, corrected reprints of the fifth editions of Volume A and the Brief Teaching Edition (edited by Theo Hahn), the third edition of Volume C (edited by Ted Prince) and the first editions of Volumes D (Physical Properties of Crystals, edited by André Authier) and G (Definition and Exchange of Crystallographic Data, edited by Syd Hall and Brian McMahon) have appeared. All the print volumes are available online as part of International Tables Online, a website designed by the IUCr. International Tables Online also includes material not available in the printed books. Several new online-only resources are planned, including a symmetry database that will allow users to retrieve symmetry-group data for any setting of their choice. Uri Shmueli (editor of Volume B: Reciprocal Space), Hans Wondratschek (editor of Volume A1) and Hartmut Fuess (former Chair of the Commission) have announced their retirement from the Commission. We thank them warmly for their many valuable contributions to the International Tables series.

Keywords: International Tables for Crystallography, publishing, electronic publishing