

JSR meeting

Euroforum Infantes, San Lorenzo de El Escorial, Spain

20 August, 15:00-18:00, Sala13

CHAIR: Ake Kvick

Attendees: Lonny Berman, Philip Coppens, Aldo Craievich

IUCr staff attending: Tony Weight

OVERVIEW AND JOURNAL PROFILE

The general view of JSR is that it is a well respected journal, one of the main places for synchrotron radiation papers and for instrumentation papers in particular. Over the last few years JSR has concentrated on publishing special issues on specific topics, selecting about 10 to 15 good papers from a meeting, workshop or conference, rather than publishing full proceedings of conferences which are not good for the impact factor of the journal.

It was questioned whether the 'including free-electron lasers' logo on the front of the printed journal was prominent enough or whether a change of title would be a good idea, for example 'Journal of Synchrotron Radiation and Free-Electron Lasers'. NIM was brought up as an example: everyone knows it as NIM-A or NIM-B but the title that is actually printed on the cover of the journal is Nuclear Instruments and Methods in Physics Research Section A: Accelerators, Spectrometers, Detectors and Associated Equipment, or Nuclear Instruments and Methods in Physics Research Section B: Beam Interactions with Materials and Atoms. However, it was also stated that 'Journal of Synchrotron Radiation' is our trademark and should be kept as such, but still the FELs part could be more prominent.

The FEL logo that appears on the front cover of the printed journal in order to attract papers on FELs and related topics does not appear on the JSR web site, nor do FELs appear in the description of the journal on the web. We must make FELs more prominent to web-only readers. Interest in FELs is rising steeply. We want JSR to become the place to go to read and submit FEL papers. We do not want another publisher to feel there is a gap in the market and produce, for example, a 'Journal of Free Electron Lasers'.

EDITORS

The journal's main Editors have been reduced from three to one with the retirements of Ake Kvick and Toshiaki Ohta at the Congress. Gene Ice is now the Editor with Samar Hasnain as Deputy Editor. It was strongly suggested that JSR needs a European main Editor.

There was a general agreement that some good new Co-editors have recently come on board. However, it was suggested that the journal needs a new Co-editor from mainland China. Although, unlike with some other journals, JSR has not been affected yet, with the Shanghai Synchrotron having been built and developments in China moving steadily forward there is likely to be an influx of papers from Chinese authors and we need to be ready for them. A Co-editor from mainland China would be useful to filter out the good papers. There are currently no obvious candidates as yet but Ake Kvick said he would do some research and try to find out the names of any possible ones.

BEAMLINE PAPERS

Everyone agreed that the addition of the new beamline papers section to the journal, introduced at the beginning of the year, was a good thing. These papers are important as they give the beamline developers credit for their work. They should also generate citations for the journal. One Co-editor said that one of his most cited papers is a beamline paper and another wished he had published beamline papers on all the beamlines he had helped set up. It was mentioned that there should be a special set of instructions for referees of beamline papers so that not too many are rejected; the Co-editor should work with the authors to get them accepted. It was suggested that an agreement should be made with the beamline scientists and users that the users must cite the beamline paper for the beamline that they have used. Users should be told to cite the paper, as is done, for example, with software. But first we need the papers to be written in order for them to be cited. A suggestion was made that the IUCr should send out letters to everyone in charge of a beamline inviting them to write a beamline paper for their beamline and highlighting the advantages. It was pointed out that there are over 300 beamlines worldwide, but then if we send out, for example, 300 invites we would hopefully get 100 papers.

SPECIAL ISSUES AND DEVELOPING AREAS OF INTEREST

The radiation damage series of special issues (five so far, every two years since 2002) have been interesting and highly cited and we should try to keep publishing them in the journal as long as they remain relevant and of current interest.

We should also invite special issues on other areas of growth, for example in areas such as the soil science issue we published recently [March 2010 issue], or on subjects relating to the environmental sciences and other areas that are becoming more important.

Suggestions for new areas for special issues or feature articles included the industrial side of synchrotron radiation and, in particular, innovations and the incorporation of industry in synchrotron radiation research. Small-angle scattering is booming at synchrotron radiation sources and has interesting applications in industry. It was agreed that this was an interesting and developing area, and it was mentioned that Synchrotron Radiation News had recently published an issue focusing on industrial research. However, it was also felt that the industrial community do not tend to publish so often and that the most interesting applications of industrial research are not usually seen. It was concluded that a special issue on industrial research would not be highly cited and that it would be OK for publications such as Synchrotron Radiation News but not for JSR. It was suggested that, although it may not be a good thing for JSR, it might be good for the Union, and it was proposed that the IUCr Commission on Synchrotron Radiation discuss the industry aspect of synchrotron radiation.

Other areas of interest for special issues or feature articles mentioned included FELs, food sciences, and the application of synchrotron radiation to archaeology and art, for example the examination of old paintings or artefacts, which would be interesting from the point of view of methods, detectors and experimental conditions. It was pointed out that Synchrotron Radiation News had also recently published an issue focusing on the latter. Forensics was also an area identified as having a large growth potential, and it was mentioned that some NSLS beamlines are used for forensics.

It was questioned whether we should open up the journal to include more papers on research with neutrons, capturing work done at large facilities in Argentina, Brazil and Australia. It was pointed out that there is already a journal concentrating on neutrons, Journal of Neutron Research, and also that we should concentrate more on what we already do and are good at, i.e. synchrotron radiation and FELs, and not dilute the journal by expanding into other areas.

Similarly, the research in the infra-red, active at places such as Brookhaven and Soleil, was mentioned as being under-represented in the journal, but it was questioned whether there would be enough material for a special issue and that again we should concentrate on the areas in which we are already established.

LEAFLET

The general consensus was that the JSR marketing leaflet looked good and was informative and eye-catching. It was commented that the leaflets must be working owing to the increased size of JSR over the last few years, and that we should carry on with them the way we are doing. The IUCr email to Co-editors inviting them to take leaflets to any meetings they may be attending was said to be a good thing, but a couple of Co-editors mentioned that sometimes the leaflets had not arrived before they had left for the meeting so it would be good to receive them much earlier. On leaflets at meetings in general, however, one Co-editor said he never looked at them and another said people tended to have a quick look and put them back down.

SUBMISSIONS

It was felt that new submissions could be encouraged by using personal contact. It was also agreed that JSR had established itself as the place to publish. It was commented that, previously, the question was 'Where should I publish my paper?' but now the question was 'Which JSR Co-editor should I choose for my paper?'. Publication speed was important to the author but it seemed that the referees were the limiting factor in getting a paper published quickly; an automatic reminder to Co-editors about the length of time that referees had been working on a paper was welcomed.

FACILITY INFORMATION PAGES

The Facility Information pages in JSR were highly thought of, though it would be good to get more but was recognised that this may be difficult in the current climate. It was thought unlikely that the NSLS would be able to be persuaded to

contribute, especially as they had stopped receiving the printed journal, but perhaps things might change when NSLS-II starts up.

USE OF COLOUR IN THE JOURNAL

Owing to the cost of printing colour it was decided that the Co-editors and Technical Editor should be stricter on the use of colour figures in the journal. The Co-editor should be more aware of colour and inform the author if they thought a figure could be easily made black and white, but it was suggested that this should be the job of the Technical Editor while the Co-editor concentrated more on the science.