

OCM01 COMMISSION ON JOURNALS (I)**Coordinator:** John R. Helliwell**OCM01.24.1***Acta Cryst.* (2005). A61, C125**Overview of IUCr Journals**

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Comparing the year ends of the last three triennia, 11728 journal pages were published in 2004, compared with 9215 in 2001 and 7937 in 1998. This increase in the number of pages has been accompanied by a major reduction in publication times for all sections of *Acta Cryst.*, *J. Appl. Cryst.* and *J. Synchrotron Rad.* In the most recent triennium, an electronic submission system was introduced and has been very popular with Co-editors and authors. The journals continued to be the most cited in crystallography; *Acta Cryst. B* currently has the highest impact factor (3.643). The overall withdrawal plus rejection rate for *Acta Cryst.* was 26% in 2004, up compared with 2002 (18%). For *Acta Cryst. A*, special issues based on workshop 'hot topics' have been introduced, similar to the strategy in recent years for *J. Synchrotron Rad.* An open-access option was introduced for authors in 2004; grants have allowed all UK papers to be published open access in 2004/2005. *Acta Cryst. E* has been very successful in attracting ever increasing numbers of electronic structure reports. *Acta Cryst. C* is increasingly the home of the most important and high-quality crystal structure communications; its impact factor rising from 0.571 in 2001 to 0.828 in 2003. In 2004 we launched *Acta Cryst. F: Structural Biology and Crystallization Communications* (Editors H. Einspahr and M. Guss); extensive work with the PDB has been made by H. Einspahr on the streamlining of deposition-to-publication methodologies. Finally, a review is currently being made of Education papers within IUCr Journals.

Keywords: journals publishing, commission on journals, overview**OCM01.24.2***Acta Cryst.* (2005). A61, C125***Acta Crystallographica Section A: Foundations of Crystallography***

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In the triennium 2002-2004, Section A has published 18 bimonthly issues comprising 2585 pages, including the abstracts of the IUCr Geneva congress and the ECM22 meeting. The number of published research papers and short communications+letters was 201 and 27, respectively, comprising 1648 pages. These numbers are roughly on the level of the period 1999-2001. From year to year, there are notable fluctuations but the average level is stable. Rejection and withdrawal rates fluctuate around 33%. The geographical origin of the articles, summed as integral and half-integral numbers, is over 50% Europe, about 25% the Americas and under 25% Asia+Australia. The subject matters may be grouped into ad-hoc categories with comparable numbers of papers: (1) geometry, twinning; (2) algorithms, ab initio calculations, experimental set-ups; (3) diffraction theory, imaging methods, diffuse scattering; (4) structure determination, electron crystallography; (5) electron densities. A highlight was the special issue on "New information from modern charge density methods" which appeared as the September 2004 issue under the responsibility of F. K. Larsen, and comprises 21 articles presented at the ECDM-III meeting in Denmark. Section A covers a broad interdisciplinary spectrum of the exact sciences. It is the leading journal for work in *Foundations of Crystallography*, with impact factors fluctuating between 1.42 and 1.75 over the past 5 years (latest value 1.558). Two special issues and three Lead articles/Topical reviews are presently planned.

Keywords: *Acta Cryst. A*, journals, publication**OCM01.24.3***Acta Cryst.* (2005). A61, C125***Acta Crystallographica Section B: Structural Science***

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During the triennium 2002-2004 *Section B* of *Acta Crystallographica* published 2672 pages that included 280 full Research Papers, 27 Short Communications, and one Topical Review. In 2002 a special issue on Crystallographic Databases was published jointly with *Section D* of *Acta* (13 articles from *Section B*). The ratio of papers in *Section B* that discussed inorganic and molecular compounds was about 35:65 during the triennium, but the ratio varies from year to year.

A very positive development is the continuing increase of the impact factor from 1.73 for 2000 to 3.64 for 2003 (announced in 2004). This increase has brought *Section B* greater visibility and very favorable publicity. The heavily cited 2002 special issue on databases was an important factor in the rise of the impact factor.

Challenges to the competitive position of *Section B* have been identified. *Section B* must now compete for papers with the new journals *CrystEngComm* (started in 1999 by the Royal Society of Chemistry in Great Britain) and *Crystal Growth & Design* (started in 2001 by the American Chemical Society).

Technical changes during the triennium include an almost fully automated electronic submission and processing system that has lowered the time from submission to publication from 7.2 mo in 2001 to 4.8 mo in 2004. Color figures have become so common that the journal pages look quite different than they were three years ago.

Keywords: IUCr journals, structural science, journals online**OCM01.24.4***Acta Cryst.* (2005). A61, C125***Acta Crystallographica Section C: Crystal Structure Communications***

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Acta Crystallographica Section C continues to specialize in the rapid publication of high-quality studies of novel and challenging crystal and molecular structures. In 2003 *Section C* published 478 papers (49 inorganic, 186 metal-organic and 243 organic) in a total of 1482 pages. In 2004, *Section C* published 554 papers (42 inorganic, 227 metal-organic, 285 organic) in a total of 1686 pages. Publication times continue their downward trend, while the citation impact has risen from 0.571 in 2001, to 0.659 in 2002 and 0.828 in 2003.

There has been a significant increase in the number of submissions to *Section C* in the last triennium and this has resulted in a major increase in editorial workload. Some 39% of original technically correct submissions to *Section C* in 2003 were subsequently withdrawn or rejected; this withdrawal/rejection rate climbed to 48% in 2004. The principal reasons for this significant increase in the withdrawal/rejection rate were either that the text in the Comment section of the CIF was deemed not to provide the "significant added value to the numerical data freely available in the CIF", or (increasingly) that the text in the Comment section was very poorly crafted and difficult to understand. Changes made to the 2005 Notes for authors to improve the quality of initial submissions will be described.

Keywords: IUCr journals, *Acta Cryst. C*, crystal structures**OCM01.24.5***Acta Cryst.* (2005). A61, C125-C126***Acta Crystallographica Section D: Biological Crystallography, 2002-2004***

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Acta D was established as a journal dedicated to the expanding field of biological crystallography. The last triennium has seen the celebration of 10 years' publication, the retirement of the founding

Editor, Jenny Glusker, to whom great thanks are due, and the appointment of Ted Baker and Zbyszek Dauter as new joint Editors. The journal has grown steadily, from 2243 pages in 2002 to 2406 in 2004. Average publication times have decreased from 5.2 to 4.3 months, but the impact factor has remained at around 2. Reflecting the current surge in methods development, *Acta D* has published many important methodological papers in the past 3 years, both in regular issues and in the special issues dedicated to the standout CCP4 study weekend series. The number of structural papers has remained steady at about 10 per issue, but the number of crystallization papers has increased to the point where they constitute 60% of papers in the journal. From 2005, however, these will be published in the all-electronic sister journal *Acta F*. *Acta D* will then focus on crystallographic methods and new protein structures, aiming to attract more high profile structural papers, and will seek to increase the number of topical reviews and commentaries.

Keywords: IUCr journals, *Acta Cryst. D*, biological crystallography

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Acta Crystallographica Section E: Structure Reports Online: Rapid Growth 2001–2004

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Acta Crystallographica Section E: Structure Reports Online was launched in 2001 as the first purely electronic journal of the IUCr. Its purpose is the rapid publication of individual results of crystal structure determination, with an emphasis on brevity, high technical quality, and high speed. Between its launch and the end of 2004, the journal has grown steadily and massively. In terms of both papers and pages, the 2004 journal is more than double the size of that in 2001. Over the same period, the average publication time has been slightly reduced from 1 month to 0.8 months. Each year a substantial number of new Co-editors have been appointed, reaching over 30 by the end of 2004. Procedures for submission and handling of papers have been refined and substantial further improvements are currently underway. Authors are provided with a number of tools to aid them in the preparation and checking of manuscripts; they have the opportunity of incorporating a wide range of full-colour graphics and supplementary material; communication with editorial staff, proof-reading, and the provision of free reprints are all carried out electronically, through web interfaces and e-mail. The journal has proved very popular and is an excellent medium for the publication of individual crystal structures for which detailed discussion is not required, complementing *Section C* with its requirement for significant discussion of results and its acceptance of multiple-structure papers.

Keywords: journal publishing, IUCr journals, crystallography journals online

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Acta Crystallographica Section F: Launch Year Report

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The new all-electronic *Section F* of *Acta Crystallographica* was launched in January 2005. This new journal aims to provide a home for short communications on the crystallization and structure of biological macromolecules. Structures determined through structural genomics initiatives or from iterative studies such as those used in the pharmaceutical industry are particularly welcome. A panel of distinguished Co-editors will ensure that the high scientific and production standards of *Acta Crystallographica* are maintained.

An entirely new feature of *Section F* will be the close coordination of data submission to the Protein Data Bank and preparation of mandatory items for inclusion in short structural papers. The preferred mode of data transfer from the database to the journal will

be in the form of an mmCIF file. This will enable the generation of tables for publication and validation data for referees. One of the section editors has been working closely with staff of the PDB and the IUCr offices in Chester to define the new mmCIF terms required for a complete description of a structure determination. Parallel efforts are being made to improve the communication between Co-editors, referees and authors.

Keywords: *Acta Cryst. F*, crystallization, structural genomics

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Journal of Applied Crystallography

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In its thirty-seventh year, the *Journal of Applied Crystallography* continues to serve a broad readership by providing an international forum for the coverage of all topics related to the development and application of crystallographic methods all across the basic and applied natural sciences. The main subject areas and major developments during the last three years will be reviewed, and the strength and potential for future improvements of the journal will be assessed. There will be ample time for the discussion of points raised at the session.

Keywords: journals commission, *Journal of Applied Crystallography*, IUCr publications

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Journal of Synchrotron Radiation: Current Status and Issues

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The *Journal of Synchrotron Radiation (JSR)* continues to provide the synchrotron radiation research community a venue for publication of important research and instrumentation/technique development. For the calendar years 2002, 2003, and 2004 the overall number of articles published was 320, comprising 1400 pages. Based on discussions from the last editors meeting (due in part to the adverse effect of conference proceedings in the calculation of the journal impact factor), major conference proceedings are no longer sought after by the journal. Rather, the main editors believe that special issues focused on a particular topic (often the highlights of a larger conference) provide the synchrotron radiation community with high quality summaries of important developments in the field. In the last three years five Special Issues of the journal were published. We see this as a growth area as we already have commitments for 5 Special Issues in 2005. In 2004 Facility Information pages, one page per issue is devoted to each of the three third-generation hard X-ray sources (APS, ESRF, and Spring-8), were initiated. These pages provide an opportunity for these facilities to communicate important news and updates to the international community of synchrotron radiation users. The content of these pages, along with expansion of information pages to other facilities will be discussed.

Keywords: IUCr journals, *Journal of Synchrotron Radiation*, current status

OCM02 COMMISSION ON JOURNALS (II)

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Getting the best out of IUCr Journals (Practical Advice and Demonstrations)

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This second Commission on Journals session concentrates on providing all those who use IUCr Journals, including authors,