

Agenda – summer JComm meetings

ACA, Honolulu, USA

24 July, 12:15-1:15; buffet lunch from 12:00; Koko Crater room

Chair: Carol Brock

Expected attendees: Lonny Berman, Zbigniew Dauter, Howard Einspahr, Larry Falvello, Judy Flippen-Anderson, Ilia Guzei, Jim Kaduk, Katherine Kantardjieff, Ake Kvik, Alan Lough, Marilyn Olmstead, Tom Terwilliger, Manfred Weiss
IUCr staff attending: Brian McMahon

ECM, Leuven, Belgium

6 August, 15:00-18:00; Raadszaal, Falcon College, Tiensestraat 41 (the room is close to the registration desk)

Chair: Gernot Kostorz

Expected attendees: Naomi Chayen, Matyas Czugler, Bill Clegg, Gautam Desiraju, Vladimir Dmitrienko, Mark Elsegood, George Ferguson, Andreas Fischer, John Gallagher, Carl Henrik Gørbitz, Heinz Graafsma, John Helliwell, Tony Linden, Lynne McCusker, Manuel Perez-Mato, Urszula Rychlewska, Dieter Schwarzenbach, Maryjane Tremayne, Manfred Weiss, Richard Welberry
IUCr staff attending: Peter Strickland

Agenda

1. CHESTER REPORT
2. JOURNALS PROMOTION
3. REPORTS FROM SECTION AND MAIN EDITORS
4. ELECTRONIC SUBMISSION AND REVIEW SYSTEM
5. CRYSTALLOGRAPHY JOURNALS ONLINE
6. NOTES FOR AUTHORS
7. REVIEW OF SPECIAL ISSUES
8. MATTERS RAISED BY EDITORS AND CO-EDITORS
9. ANY OTHER BUSINESS
10. DATE AND PLACE OF NEXT MEETING

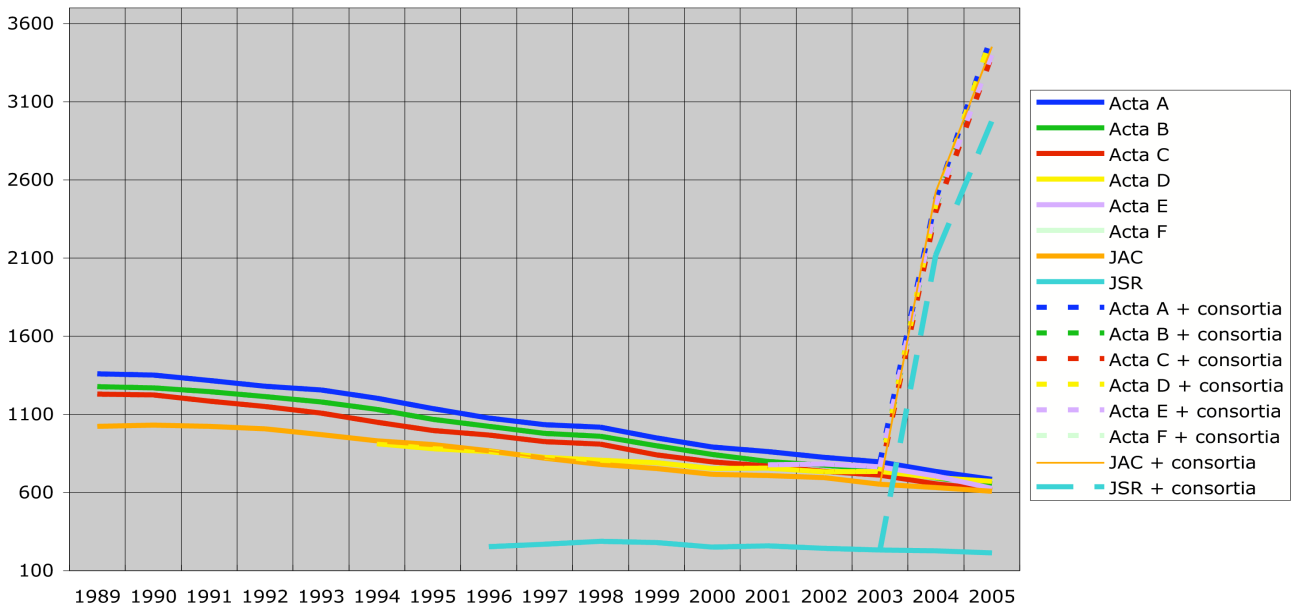
Agenda notes

1. CHESTER REPORT

1.2. Journal finances and subscriptions

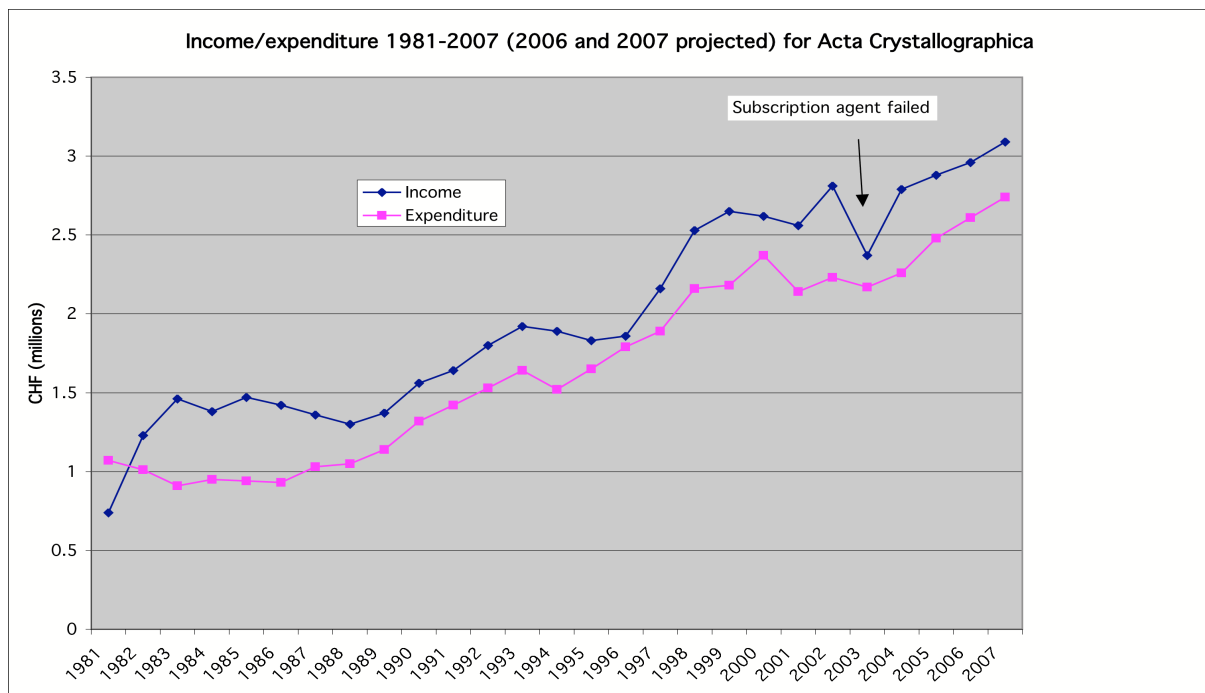
A graph of the number of subscribers to the journals is shown below. The number of subscribers has decreased by 3-5 percent per annum over the last 15 years. From 2004, when the IUCr started to take part in Blackwell Synergy, the number of libraries that can access the journals has increased substantially, as libraries that have taken out a Blackwell consortial deal can now access the journals.

Subscriptions 1989-2005



The revenue derived from each consortial subscriber is small compared to subscription incomes, but member libraries that previously held subscriptions to the journals are required to maintain these as part of the access conditions for the consortium.

The policy of the IUCr Finance Committee has been to try to ensure that the journals make a small surplus (10%) for use by the Union for good causes. The graph below shows that this has largely been achieved in the last two triennia.



In 2005, a telemarketing company was used to call institutions who had not renewed their 2004 subscriptions. Nearly half of those contacted have subsequently renewed. The remainder cancelled for reasons such as low usage and budget constraints, and are being offered a discount to renew by the IUCr. The same procedure will be repeated in 2006/2007.

For 2007, the general journal price increase will be 7.5%; the average price increase applied by Blackwell to their other journals is 8%.

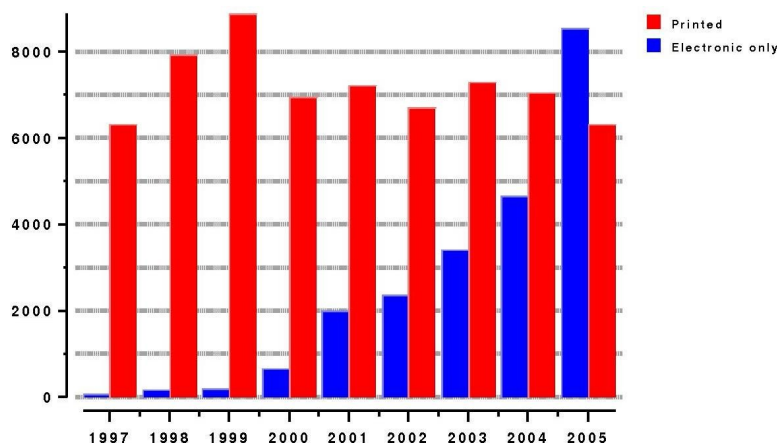
There are two mechanisms that aim to allow for readers in developing countries to access the journals. The Journal Grants Fund, which is administered by the Chester Office, provides low-cost print or electronic subscriptions to libraries.

In addition, Blackwell Synergy provide low-cost electronic access to consortia in developing countries. Details of the libraries with this type of access can be requested from the Editorial Office.

1.3. Statistical report

Full statistical reports for the years 2002-2005 are available for viewing at your status home page at <http://wdc.iucr.org>, by following the link "Annual reports". A summary of the statistics for 2005 is given in APPENDIX A.

The total number of pages published in 2005 was 14779, which compares with 11728 in 2004 and 10715 in 2003. Of this total, 8541 pages were published in electronic only format. The growth in the number of electronic only pages is illustrated below.



The number of manuscripts submitted to the journals was 5741 (compared with 4712 in 2004 and 3569 in 2003). The total number of accepted papers was 4289 (compared with 3402 in 2004 and 2899 in 2003).

The impact factors for the journals are reported in APPENDIX A.

1.4. Research and development

Research and development projects that have been undertaken in the last year include:

- Online journals projects
 - PDF linking
 - Openurl linking
 - RSS feeds
 - Improved metadata (article components and forward linking)
- Submission and review
 - Submission system extension to Sections C and E
 - Status system developed and integrated with the submission and review system
 - Duplication checking for Sections C and E
- Other projects
 - CIF handling (in-house and author tool for viewing and formatting CIFs; publicCIF)
 - Section F procedures and data requirements (with Howard Einspahr and the PDB)
 - Reference processing
 - Automation of figure processing
 - Archiving and recovery planning
 - Usage statistics
 - CML/InChI generation

1.5. Open access

Open access has been available on Crystallography Journals Online since January 2004. After acceptance, authors are given the opportunity, by payment of a fee (USD 900), to make their papers available as open-access articles in the electronic version of the journal. The fees are used to keep down the cost of subscriptions. More details of the policy are available at <http://journals.iucr.org/services/openaccess.html>. The IUCr made an agreement with the UK Joint Information Systems Committee (JISC) which means that open-access charges have been waived until March 2007 for UK further education staff publishing in IUCr journals (for more details see <http://journals.iucr.org/services/openaccessuk.html>).

The open-access policy has been successful with approximately 40 articles being made open access by direct author payment, over 800 articles being made open access as a result of the JISC funding, and approximately 100 articles being made open access as part of an agreement with CCP4.

The other policies of IUCr Journals in this area are as follows:

- (1) In addition to open-access articles, certain categories of articles (*e.g.* Lead Articles, Feature Articles, Teaching and Education papers, Addenda and Errata, Conference Abstracts) are made freely available on Crystallography Journals Online. In total there are now over 10 000 articles that are either freely available or made available by paid open access.
- (2) Authors of open-access articles have no restrictions on the re-use of their articles.
- (3) The conditions for authors of standard articles (*i.e.* articles where an open-access fee has not been paid), are as follows:
 - (a) If the author wishes to include material from their own article in a publication, prior permission is generally not required, see <http://journals.iucr.org/services/permissions.html>
 - (b) The authors are given permission to load the electronic reprint of their article on their own web site; loading the electronic reprint into an archive is also permitted.
 - (c) Authors may also load the final accepted version of their manuscript on preprint servers or place a copy in an archive.

The above policies are in line with possible new requirements from funding agencies that authors must deposit a copy of their final manuscript in a public archive within six months of publication. In the long term such requirements may add to the long-term decrease in the number of subscribers, and make it difficult for the journals to keep publishing on a sustainable basis.

One option to keep the journals publishing in a sustainable way is to consider moving one or more journals to a full open-access model. The IUCr Finance Committee has asked that the option of making some of our journals fully open access be considered.

A candidate for full open access is Section E, which currently only has very small numbers of subscribers, but has had a massive growth in the number of papers. Discussions are to be held with the Editors of Section E to see how such a policy might be applied, look into the level of charges that might be necessary and mechanisms that would allow some authors to have their fees waived.

1.6. Update on JComm actions

- (1) The cost of colour printing was a concern at the Commission meeting in Italy. From 2007, the IUCr is to move its printing to Asia to reduce the colour printing costs. However, Co-editors are encouraged to let Chester staff know if they consider that particular figures can be printed in black and white, but displayed in colour online.
- (2) Notes for Referees have been made available online. An online Referee Form will be implemented in the forthcoming months.
- (3) A new ethical guidelines paragraph on authorship has been included in the Notes for Authors.
- (4) A mechanism for the transfer of papers between journals has been included in the Handbook for Co-editors. A simplified procedure for Sections C and E is described in the Notes for Co-editors.
- (5) A time limit for authors lodging appeals against rejection of their papers has been included in the Notes for Authors.
- (6) A web page stating the article correction and retraction policy for IUCr Journals has been made available and is linked from the Notes for Authors.
- (7) Wording concerning the quality of writing has been added to the Notes for Authors.
- (8) Wording concerning the maximum number of revisions that an author can submit has been included in the Notes for Authors for use at the Co-editor's discretion.
- (9) A new category of articles, Feature Articles, has been introduced to replace Topical Reviews.
- (10) A beta-test version of the program publCIF, for previewing and editing CIFs, has been made publicly available. A full version will become available in the summer.

2. JOURNALS PROMOTION REPORT

A summary of the journals promotion work carried out by Andrea Sharpe and the Journals Working Group (JWG) is given below.

The JWG is interested to hear the views of the Commission on ideas that would help in the promotion of the journals.

The main roles of the JWG are: (a) the preparation and updating of leaflets, including where they should be distributed, and (b) journals' development ideas in general. The JWG is also spearheading plans to celebrate the 60th anniversary of Acta and the 40th anniversary of JAC in 2008.

General promotion

Journal-specific leaflets have now been produced for Acta A, B, D and F, JAC and JSR. There is also an Acta B/C/E leaflet, with separate leaflets for Acta C and E in preparation. The current leaflets, including the IUCr Journals brochure, will be circulated at the meeting and suggestions for improvements and new features will be sought.

Journal article press releases have a regular slot in the IUCr Newsletter. These press releases are now being posted at Crystallography Journals Online, with the highlighted article being made freely available for three months after publication of the Newsletter.

Promotion at meetings

The journals continue to be promoted at the major crystallographic meetings and at other meetings outside the community. A list of meetings at which promotional material has or will be distributed in 2006 is available from Andrea Sharpe (as@iucr.org), and details of meetings attended in 2006 and meetings planned for 2007 are given below. Recommendations for additional meetings for 2007 are welcome.

2006	BCA, UK (April)
	International School on Biological Crystallization, Spain (May) (Howard Einspahr)
	Erice: Structure and Function of Large Molecular Assemblies, Italy (June) (Howard Einspahr)
	ACA, USA (July)
	ECM, Belgium (August)
	AsCA, Japan (November)
2007	ACA, USA (July)
	ECM, Morocco (August)

Promotional materials (posters and leaflets) are available *via* the link "Promotional materials" in the online status home pages for editors. Editors are welcome to print out these materials and take them to meetings that they attend, or contact Andrea for copies.

Advertising and sponsorship

Advertising/sponsorship revenue in 2005 was USD 44215.

Editors are encouraged to suggest new ideas for advertising the journals.

3. REPORTS FROM SECTION AND MAIN EDITORS

Section and Main Editors attending the JComm meetings will be asked to provide short reports on the progress of their journals. Annual reports are provided in APPENDIX B.

4. ELECTRONIC SUBMISSION AND REVIEW

The submission system has been running for over three years. Comments on the system are welcome.

Since the Commission meeting in Italy, the status system has been enhanced and integrated more closely with the submission and review system. The individual article pages in the status system now contain additional links to allow template emails to be sent to authors, reviewers and the Editorial Office, and the recording of decisions (accept, reject, withdraw, and accept and transfer).

4.1. Transfer of papers between journals

A general transfer mechanism has been set up within the online submission and review system that allows a Co-editor to transfer and accept a paper to a journal other than one on which they usually work. The main idea of the scheme is to avoid multiple reviewing of a paper by different Co-editors and reviewers. The steps are as follows:

- (1) Carry out the review as usual unless it is immediately clear that the paper should be in another journal (in this case an early decision as to whether to continue with the paper or to ask the authors to resubmit to another journal should be made).
- (2) After the review has been completed and a transfer looks appropriate, consult with a Section or Main Editor of the new journal about whether a transfer makes sense.
- (3) Consult with the author giving reasons why a transfer would be appropriate.
- (4) If the author agrees to the transfer, use the submission and review system to transfer and accept the paper for the new journal.

Comments are invited on how well this procedure is working and the need for specific policies for individual journals.

4.2. Sections C and E

A new submission system has been set up for Sections C and E, and has been in operation since the start of 2006. The system allows all source files to be uploaded during the initial submission process. Work on the duplication part of the submission system is continuing, and it is intended to include real-time checking against external databases in the next few months.

4.3. Templates

The review system provides standard templates for communications with authors, reviewers and the Editorial Office staff. However, Co-editors may have their own customised templates installed – for more information, please contact the Editorial Office.

4.4. Referee forms

It is expected that an online version of the forms will be implemented in the next few months.

5. CRYSTALLOGRAPHY JOURNALS ONLINE

Editors' suggestions on how the service might be improved will be most welcome.

All Co-editors are entitled to free personal access to Crystallography Journals Online. If you have not already registered, send an e-mail to support@iucr.org for details. Please encourage your organisation to subscribe if it does not already do so.

6. NOTES FOR AUTHORS

Suggestions for changes to the Notes for Authors should be discussed at this point.

7. REVIEW OF SPECIAL ISSUES

Special issues published in the last year include the following: Phase Transitions (Acta A, January 2005); BioXAS and Metallogenomics (JSR, January 2005); Applications of Synchrotron Radiation to Materials Research (JSR, March 2005); Radiation Damage in Macromolecules (JSR, May 2005); Crystallization of Biological Macromolecules (ICCBM10) (Acta D, June 2005); Softer Synchrotron Radiation X-rays in Structural Studies (JSR, July 2005); Structure Determination by Single Crystal X-ray Diffraction at Megabar Pressures (JSR, September 2005); Abstracts of Florence Congress 2005 (Acta A, September 2005); Synchrotron Radiation and Nanobiosciences (JSR, November 2005); CCP4 - Data Collection and Analysis (Acta D, January 2006); Detectors (JSR, March 2006); International School on Mathematical and Theoretical Crystallography (MaThCryst) (Acta A, March 2006).

Issues in preparation or planning include: Special SPINE (Structural Proteomics in Europe) issue (Acta D, autumn 2006); Get Phases (Acta D, August 2006); Abstracts of ECM23, Leuven (Acta A, autumn 2006); CCP4 – Crystallography of Complexes (Acta D, January 2007); Phase Transitions II (Acta A, early 2007); Radiation Damage in Macromolecules (JSR, November 2006); SAS2006 Small-Angle Scattering Meeting (JAC, spring 2007); Across 60 (Acta A, January 2008); CCP4 – Molecular Replacement (Acta D, January 2008); International Symposium on Diffraction

Structural Biology (JSR, under negotiation, 2008).
Editors' suggestions for special issues are welcomed.

8. MATTERS RAISED BY EDITORS AND CO-EDITORS

Below are listed a number of points that have come up since the Commission meetings in Italy. Matters raised by Editors and Co-editors in response to the circulation of these agenda notes will also be discussed here.

- (1) **Review materials.** During the last year we received a request from the Editorial Office of a non-IUCr Journal to forward review materials to the journal; in this specific instance the request was declined. Is there a need for a formal policy on this matter?
- (2) **Review of data items.** It has been noted that many CIF items are more oriented towards the now nearly obsolete serial detector based data sets and procedures and that it might be useful to set up a review of such items.
- (3) **Images policy.** Nature has published a policy on images (*e.g.* images submitted with a paper for review should be minimally processed), see <http://www.nature.com/nature/authors/submissions/images/index.html>. Should IUCr Journals also provide such guidelines?
- (4) **Conflict of interest.** Under what circumstances is it acceptable for Editors and Co-editors to suggest the addition of papers of their own to the reference list of papers they are reviewing? In a particular recent case, the handling Co-editor copied the Main Editor into the correspondence on this matter.
- (5) **Restraints.** Should the number of restraints be a required data item?
- (6) **Powder diffraction.** It used to be that solving several structures *a priori* by powder diffraction was enough for a paper in Section B. Is this still true? Also should we consider requiring justification if a structure is determined from a powder rather than from a single crystal?

9. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

10. DATE AND PLACE OF NEXT MEETING

The next formal meeting of the Commission on Journals will be held in conjunction with the 2008 IUCr Congress, which is to be held in Japan. It is expected that the Commission will meet informally during 2007 to coincide with at least one of the meetings of the IUCr Regional Associates.