

Journals Management Board meeting

7 and 8 March 2024

Room CCU103, Churchill House, University of Chester, Queens Park, Chester

Chair: Andrew Allen

Expected attendees: Andrew Allen (IUCr Editor-in-chief), Jon Agirre (*Acta F*), Dibyendu Bhattacharyya (*JSR*), Simon Billinge (*Acta A*), Richard Catlow (*IUCrJ*), Santiago Garcia-Granda (IUCr President), Janos Hajdu (*JAC*), Alan Kennedy (*Acta C*), Loes Kroon-Batenburg (*IUCrData*), Kristina Kvashnina (*JSR*), Chiara Massera (*Acta E*), Sean Parkin (*Acta E*), Thomas Proffen (Commissioning Editor), Mark van Raaij (*Acta F*), Roberto Steiner (Commissioning Editor)

As guests: Kate McKellar (Wiley), Melanie Vollmar (EMBL-EBI)

Chester staff: Nicola Ashcroft, Amanda Berry, Kezia Bowman, Sean Conway, Simon Glynn, Andrea Hill, Gillian Holmes, Mike Hoyland, Louise Jones, Andrea Sharpe, Lisa Stephenson, Alex Stanley, Peter Strickland, Tony Weight, Simon Westrip

Timetable

We expect to run a number of breakout meetings during the JMB meeting.

Thursday 7 March

09:30-17:00 JMB meeting

18:30 Dinner at Chez Jules

Friday 8 March

09:30-16:00 JMB meeting

16:00 Close of meeting

AGENDA

1. Approval of the agenda
2. Introduction and main issues to address at this meeting
3. Journals development
4. Marketing
5. Editorial and technical developments
6. AI
7. Open science
8. Special topics
9. Any other business
10. Date of next meeting

LIST OF APPENDICES

All appendices will be available from

<https://journals.iucr.org/services/coeditors/meetings/jmb/2024/>

APPENDIX A

Report on the 2023 JMB meeting

APPENDIX B

Report on the 2023 Melbourne JComm meeting

APPENDIX C

Notes on individual journals meetings

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Lead and Feature Articles and Topical Reviews

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APPENDIX I

Retirement/appointment information

Agenda notes

1. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

The meeting is intended to be a forum to have open discussions about the journals. Suggestions for additional ideas or items for the agenda will therefore be very welcome.

2. INTRODUCTION AND MAIN ISSUES TO ADDRESS AT THIS MEETING

There will be a short introduction and welcome from the IUCr President, Santiago Garcia-Granda, and the IUCr CEO, Alex Stanley.

The main aim of the meeting is to identify ways of attracting more authors, increasing the submission of high-quality papers and boosting the number of open-access papers. The number of submissions to IUCr Journals increased slightly last year (from 1522 in 2022 to 1549 in 2023), but this is the first such increase since 2011. This submission level is well below that for the 2010s. We need to think about how structural science is developing and how we can make sure that the journals can adjust their scopes to cover all areas of interest to the Union and its Commissions.

Understanding what we do well and what we can do better will be key to helping us improve the journals and increase their appeal to a wider audience. We will also be considering how the review system can be improved to allow us to publish more quickly.

Many new Co-editors have been appointed in recent years. It is important to review how well this is working, in terms of how new Co-editors are being brought up to speed so that editorial policies are applied in a reasonably coherent manner.

One area that the Editorial Office hopes to focus on in the next year is promotion of the journals and improving article publicity. Having a clear scope for each of our journals, and communicating these well to authors is increasingly important. We need to be more visible to potential authors, and it will be important to discuss any ideas that the JMB has that would help in the promotion of the journals. Increased promotional activity will be linked to a general campaign to modernise the image of the IUCr.

Activities undertaken at the 2023 Melbourne Congress will be briefly described. A report on the 2023 JMB meeting is given in APPENDIX A, and notes on the JComm meetings held at the Congress are given in APPENDIX B.

3. JOURNALS DEVELOPMENT

3.1. Review of the year

Main Editors will be asked to provide some brief information about their journal:

Name one good idea or action from the past year.

Name one idea that you tried that didn't work.

What are the important things you would like to discuss at this meeting?

Notes on individual journals meetings held since the last JMB are given in APPENDIX C and draft annual reports for the journals are given in APPENDIX D. Annual statistics are available in APPENDIX E and InCites Journal Citation reports in APPENDIX F. Live information on citations, downloads and social-media activity for articles published from 2020 to date is available at

<https://publif.iucr.org/orcid/citations.php>

3.2. Focused issues and commissioning

3.2.1. Reports by Commissioning Editors

Elena Boldyreva, Roberto Steiner and Thomas Proffen are the Commissioning Editors covering chemistry, biology, and materials, methods and instrumentation, respectively. Commissioning Editors attending the meeting will provide a brief report of their recent activity. It is important that there is close cooperation between the Commissioning Editors and Main and Section Editors, and that all editorial board members are encouraged to come forward with commissioning ideas.

A list of Lead and Feature Articles, and Topical Reviews that have been published recently is given as APPENDIX G.

3.2.2. Commissioning from meetings

For last year's IUCr Congress in Melbourne, plenary and keynote speakers were invited to write articles for the journals. In addition, session chairs were invited to submit Topical Reviews in the area of their session. There was also a general call to poster authors to submit to the journals. Finally, we also wrote to editors to see who would be in Melbourne and could help with commissioning.

Ideas for other meetings where we could commission articles are welcome.

3.2.3. Focused issues

Focused issues are a key way of demonstrating the scope and new directions of a journal. If chosen correctly, small themed issues on topics of importance to the journal can often be more cited than standard issues. In addition, Guest Co-editors for such Focused issues often make good candidates as Co-editors. Where such issues are linked to a meeting there is also the opportunity to encourage the organisers of the meeting to make the issues open access.

Another option is collections of papers that have already been published. A number of such virtual collections, combining articles published across multiple issues or multiple journals, have been prepared in recent years.

Recently published Focused issues include the following:

Magnetic small-angle neutron scattering – from nanoscale magnetism to long-range magnetic structures (JAC, February 2023)

Room-temperature biological crystallography (virtual, multi-journal, summer 2022 to March 2023)

Halogen, chalcogen, pnictogen and tetrel bonds: structural chemistry and beyond (Acta C, May 2023)

Modern approaches and tools for teaching crystallography (Acta E, September 2023)

Small-angle scattering special issue (SAS2022) (JAC, including paper from Acta D, December 2023)

CCP4 Study Weekend 2022 - Current trends in macromolecular model refinement and validation (Acta D, virtual issue, December 2023)

Artificial neural networks: applications in X-ray photon science and crystallography (JAC, January 2024)

Machine learning in crystallography and structural science (virtual collection, multi-journal, including papers from Acta A, B and D, JSR and IUCrJ, January 2024)

Issues in preparation or planning include:

Collection of articles from Melbourne IUCr Congress/75th Anniversary issue (multi-journal, summer 2023 onwards)

Collection of articles to commemorate the founding of AfCA (multi-journal, summer 2023 onwards)

CCP4 Study Weekend 2024 - Decision making in MX - how to be a productive structural biologist (Acta D, virtual issue, summer 2024 onwards)

CCP4 Study Weekend 2023 - Data - subtle details to big insights (Acta D, virtual issue, summer 2023 onwards)

CCP-EM Spring Symposium 2022 (Acta D, virtual issue, spring 2023 onwards)
CCP-EM Spring Symposium 2023 (Acta D, virtual issue, spring 2024 onwards)
CCP-EM Spring Symposium 2024 (Acta D, virtual issue, late 2024 onwards)
CCDC Crystal Structure Prediction (Acta B, summer 2024)
PhotonDiag-MEADOW (JSR, summer 2024)
X-ray spectroscopy (JSR, summer 2024)
Asia-Oceania International Conference on Synchrotron Radiation Instruments (JSR, autumn 2024)
SAMPREP workshop (Acta F, Autumn 2024 onwards)
Magnetic structures (Acta B, winter 2024)
Small-angle scattering special issue (SAS2024 conference) (JAC, winter 2024)
Crystal lattices (Acta A, virtual issue, 2024)
Advances in Electron Diffraction for Structural Characterization (Acta C, 2024)
Crystallography in Latin America: a vibrant community (Acta C, 2024)
Intermolecular forces and interaction energies (Acta C, 2024)
Best practice in crystallography (Acta C, an occasional series for 2024)
Structure prediction of crystals, nano-particles and biomolecules (IUCrJ, multi-journal, 2025)
Keith Hodgson tribute (JSR, 2025)
3D printing and additive manufacturing (JAC, under consideration)
Synchrotron radiation in industrial applications (JSR, agreed but delayed)

It would be useful to discuss if any of the Focused issues already planned might become regular features in the journals. Also, ideas are welcome for what extra items might be included in Focused issues (*e.g.* should there be links to key historic/highest cited papers in the field?).

4. MARKETING

A summary of journals promotion and marketing work will be given at the meeting. Plans to improve IUCr's marketing infrastructure will also be outlined. A short summary of marketing of the journals by Wiley will also be presented.

The IUCr has recruited a new staff member, Kezia Bowman, to work on digital marketing of the Union and the journals, and this should allow us to extend the marketing we do.

We are interested to hear any ideas that the JMB has that would help in the promotion of the journals. There are a number of ways in which the journals are providing additional publicity for articles. These include Commentaries, highlighting on the home pages of the journal, social media, *IUCr Newsletter*, press releases and selection for inclusion on the journal cover. We need to continue to improve the ways in which we identify articles for extra publicity. The earlier that papers with significant promise can be detected, the greater the likelihood that we will be able to successfully promote them. We provide authors with information on how to publicise their articles and also tools to, for example, use an image to tweet about their article. During 2024, we will be working with Kudos to see how AI-generated article summaries can be used to publicise articles. We also plan to test promotion of one or more of our journals via a ResearchGate home page. We would be very interested to hear from the JMB of any strategies that are being used by other publishers to promote high-quality papers.

4.1. Meetings

A list of meetings we will be attending/sponsoring/have representation at in 2024 is available in APPENDIX H.

If you are attending any meetings please let us know.

4.2. Anniversaries

The 75th anniversary of the Union and the journals was marked in 2023 by various events at the IUCr Congress, and also in an Editorial, *75 years of IUCr Journals: 1948 to 2023, an Editor-in-Chief's perspective*. Commissioning was also undertaken for a special collection of papers to celebrate the 75th anniversary and the Congress itself. This issue is currently in preparation.

2024 will mark the 10th anniversary of *IUCrJ* and the 30th anniversary of *JSR*. This item provides a chance to discuss what the journals might do in 2024, *e.g.* Editorials, virtual retrospective of top articles *etc.* to celebrate these milestones. It will also be useful to discuss how these anniversaries can be used in marketing the journals.

4.3. Wiley ideas to boost submissions

Kate McKellar, who is a Senior Publisher and our main publishing contact at Wiley, will give a short talk on ideas for how boost article submissions.

5. EDITORIAL AND TECHNICAL DEVELOPMENTS

5.1. Publication speed

Work has continued on the review system as part of attempts to improve publication speed and provide a more responsive modern interface.

Prophy (<https://www.prophy.science/>) has now been implemented across the journals to provide help with selecting reviewers. In addition, the invite reviewer pages provide extra information on potential reviewers, *e.g.* the total number of times a reviewer has been invited to review a paper, the total number of reviews completed and the average number of days taken by a reviewer to complete a review.

We have continued to work on the template pages for sending emails and have simplified the layout and content of these. Additional chasing emails have been introduced and reminders are now sent to reviewers just before review deadlines.

A chasing email has been developed for very delayed papers and a new web interface for Co-editors, Main Editors and Managing Editors that shows inactive articles is in testing. This looks at all stages of the review process and highlights papers that are stuck in the system.

The screenshot displays the IUCr editorial management interface. On the left is a sidebar with 'useful links' and 'decisions'. The main content area shows a list of papers under 'co-editor papers and overdue actions' and 'managing editor overdue actions'. Two papers are highlighted: ME5009 and IC5117. ME5009 is an editorial by Louise Jones, with a red box indicating 'REVIEWER(S) NEED CHASING 821 DAYS OVERDUE'. IC5117 is a research paper by Ellen Zhong, with a red box indicating 'REVISION NEEDS CHASING 794 DAYS OVERDUE'. The interface includes a 'show activity details' dropdown and a 'hide activity details' dropdown. The sidebar contains links for Journals Management Board, Status system help, Notes for Authors (A-X), Handbook for Co-editors, Appointment of editors, List of editors, Notes for Co-editors (C-E), Presentation for new Co-editors, publBio, Search World Directory, Crystallography Journals Online, Database utilities, Annual reports, Meetings planning, Journal statistics, Special issue planning, Promotional materials, Validation information, Transactions database utilities, Transactions report, Citation statistics, and Contact us. The 'decisions' section includes an 'article co-editor code' dropdown and 'Accept' and 'Withdraw' buttons.

Once a paper has been highlighted, there is a link to send a relevant templated email to the Co-editor to encourage them to complete the work on the highlighted article.

We are also working to provide more information to authors that would show that a review is progressing but does not lead to extra queries for Co-editors.

5.2. Format-free submissions

Some publishers currently allow format-free submissions, *i.e.* authors can submit work to a journal without having to worry about specific formatting requirements. This allows the authors to focus on content and not formatting, and can also mean that resubmission to a new journal typically requires less work by the authors. Authors may subsequently be asked to provide the article in journal format at the acceptance stage, or this may be handled in journals production.

Our production procedures can typically handle format-free submissions, so provided that the submitted article is in a format that will not cause a problem for reviewers, we should consider promoting the idea that submission can be format-free.

It would be interesting to hear any experiences the JMB has had with format-free submissions.

5.3. Transfers

A general question has been raised as to how useful transfers are for the journals, and whether this process is working well.

The following tables show the number of direct transfers via the submission system in 2022-2023. Direct transfer from *Acta C* to *E* does not appear to be happening, but a recent study showed that around 5% of withdrawn and rejected papers from *Acta C* were resubmitted to *Acta E*, *i.e.* 7 papers in 2022-2023.

TRANSFERS FROM-TO											
Journal	Total	A	B	C	D	E	F	JAC	JSR	IUCrJ	IUCrData
A	7		3	1				3			
B	0										
C	0										
D	2						2				
E	0										
F	1			1							
JAC	6	1	4		1						
JSR	0										
IUCrJ	33	4	8	1	8			8	4		
IUCrData	1					1					

TRANSFERS TO-FROM											
Journal	Total	A	B	C	D	E	F	JAC	JSR	IUCrJ	IUCrData
A	5							1		4	
B	15	3						4		8	
C	3	1					1			1	
D	9							1		8	
E	1										1
F	2				2						
JAC	11	3								8	
JSR	4									4	
IUCrJ	0										
IUCrData	0										

Acta B gets the most transfers, from *A*, *JAC* and *IUCrJ*, but does not transfer to other journals. *IUCrJ* transfers most, to almost all the other journals, but does not generally receive transfers. *Acta F* has benefitted from the transfer of structural papers from *Acta D*, although there were a limited number of transfers in 2022-2023.

The general procedure for transfers (from the *Handbook for Co-editors*) is given below.

- (1) Carry out the review as usual unless it is immediately clear that the paper should be in another IUCr journal (in this case an early decision as to whether to continue with the paper or to ask the authors to resubmit to the other IUCr journal should be made). If the early decision is that the journal is inappropriate, the authors can be sent a 'propose transfer before review' message from the emails and decisions tab. If the authors agree to a transfer please contact your Managing Editor to arrange for the article to be transferred.
- (2) After the review has been completed and a transfer looks appropriate, consult with a Section or Main Editor of your journal and of the new journal about whether a transfer makes sense, and whether a new review process will be necessary for the new journal.
- (3) Consult with the author using a 'propose transfer after review' e-mail giving reasons why a transfer would be appropriate.
- (4) If the author agrees to the transfer, and no further review is necessary in the new journal, use the submission and review system to transfer and accept the paper for the new journal. If it is considered that a new review process is necessary for acceptance in the new journal, please contact the Editorial Office to arrange for the article to be transferred to a Co-editor on the new journal.

With regard to transfers, we must avoid the situation of putting authors through several different journals and we must also try to avoid transferring poor quality papers. Considerations such as the impact factors of journals and if the journal is open access have to be taken into account if a transfer is proposed.

5.4. Sections within journals

IUCrJ operates a number of sections that are shown in the articles and in content listings *etc.* The sections describe the scientific content rather than the article type. This has a number of advantages that include (a) being able to assign submitted articles to Co-editors based on areas of expertise and (b) providing a way of showing the range of topics covered by the journal. The *IUCrJ* categories are as follows:

- Biology and Medicine
- Chemistry and Crystal Engineering
- CryoEM
- Electron Crystallography
- Materials and Computation
- Neutron and Synchrotron Science and Technology
- Physics and Free Electron Laser Science and Technology

This may be a useful idea to extend to other journals, particularly those that have a wide variety of articles. These 'sections' might also tie in with article collections. Articles might belong to more than one section.

5.5. Conflict of interest and other standard statements

As part of our ethical publishing policy page, there is a section on conflict of interest at

<https://journals.iucr.org/services/ethicalpublishingpolicy.html#CI>

This provides examples of potential conflicts of interest and states that authors should declare any conflicts of interest in the Acknowledgements section of their article.

Recently, a number of other journals have started to include specific sections in their back matter concerning conflict of interest. We propose to start adding such sections to articles where the authors have made a specific statement about conflict of interest in their manuscript. We will also continue to monitor the policies of other journals on this matter.

We also plan to include a more formal author roles section where this has been requested by the authors.

5.6. Co-review policy (IOPP)

IOP Publishing have implemented a co-review policy. This policy allows experienced researchers to collaborate with early-career researchers on peer-review tasks, offering valuable benefits for both parties. The early-career researchers gain hands-on experience, receive official recognition for their contributions, and learn from experienced reviewers. Meanwhile, the experienced reviewers can share their expertise, mentor the next generation, and lighten their workload.

Should we consider implementing a similar policy for our journals?

5.7. New article types

This topic is to allow a chance to discuss ideas for new types of articles, *e.g.* video articles.

5.8. Rewarding reviewers

ORCID reviewer recognition provides a visible and verifiable way to publicly acknowledge reviewers' contributions, without compromising the confidentiality and anonymity of the review process. It can help reviewers keep track of the number of reviews that they have carried out for the journals over time, which may be useful when applying for a promotion and funding.

Should we consider providing ORCID reviewer recognition for reviewers who request this?

5.9. Raw Data Letters

Chester staff have been working with Loes Kroon-Batenburg (University of Utrecht), Fabio Dall'Antonia (European XFEL), John Helliwell (University of Manchester), James Hester (ANSTO), Andy Goetz (ESRF) and others on the publication of Raw Data Letters in *IUCrData*. These are articles describing interesting features in the raw data for solved structures and unsolved structures. Part of the project is to check that the raw data can be reused, and software development has been undertaken to enable this. A working group has been set up to look at raw data for powder diffraction. The first Raw Data Letters were published in 2022. Further submissions to this section are welcomed.

5.10. Powder diffraction

Work was started in 2021 with the Commission on Powder Diffraction on increasing powder diffraction submissions to the journals. The work is looking at tools to make submissions to the journals easier and to help visualisation of powder patterns, and also improvements to *checkCIF* to keep the number of inappropriate alerts to a minimum.

6. AI

6.1. Report by Melanie Vollmar

Melanie Vollmar from EMBL-EBI has been undertaking a secondment project with the IUCr as part of an ARISE fellowship. The project involves the use of AI to analyse and annotate the content of structural biology texts at the review and publication stages and link this information to the structural data. Melanie will give a short talk to illustrate

applications of this work.

6.2. Use of AI by authors

The rules adopted by IUCr Journals in relation to use of AI tools by authors are as follows:

Authors may make use of AI tools in preparing their articles. However, such tools may not be listed as an author, as they cannot be held accountable for the work. All co-authors of the text should carefully check for any errors introduced through the use of an AI tool. Authors who have employed an AI tool should document this use in the methods or acknowledgements sections.

This policy was agreed at the JMB meeting in Chester in March 2023. Given the ongoing developments in AI, do we need to consider updating these rules?

6.3. Use of AI in peer review

We need to provide guidelines to reviewers concerning the use of AI in peer review. Currently, Springer Nature has published the following policy on this matter:

"Peer reviewers play a vital role in scientific publishing. Their expert evaluations and recommendations guide editors in their decisions and ensure that published research is valid, rigorous, and credible. Editors select peer reviewers primarily because of their in-depth knowledge of the subject matter or methods of the work they are asked to evaluate. This expertise is invaluable and irreplaceable. Peer reviewers are accountable for the accuracy and views expressed in their reports, and the peer review process operates on a principle of mutual trust between authors, reviewers and editors. Despite rapid progress, generative AI tools have considerable limitations: they can lack up-to-date knowledge and may produce nonsensical, biased or false information. Manuscripts may also include sensitive or proprietary information that should not be shared outside the peer review process. For these reasons we ask that, while Springer Nature explores providing our peer reviewers with access to safe AI tools, peer reviewers do not upload manuscripts into generative AI tools.

If any part of the evaluation of the claims made in the manuscript was in any way supported by an AI tool, we ask peer reviewers to declare the use of such tools transparently in the peer review report."

Should we adopt guidelines similar to those above?

7. OPEN SCIENCE

7.1. Open access

A general report on developments in open access will be presented. IUCr journal policies on green open access are designed to make sure that authors with cOalition S funding can publish in the journals. The IUCr continues to try to adopt best open-access practices and, as part of this, made information on price transparency available to cOalition S in 2022 and 2023.

In October 2023, five years after the publication of the original Plan S principles, cOalition S published a draft proposal "Towards responsible publishing" (https://www.coalition-s.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/10/Towards_Responsible_Publishing_web.pdf). This document seems to say that open-access journal publishing is not the way forward, rather it suggests the building of a community-driven, open-science system. This would be an equitable and sustainable system driven by researchers, institutions and service providers (learned societies are service providers in this context). The challenge for learned society publishers will be to adapt and embrace open-access practices, in order to secure funding from various stakeholders like research funders and institutions. In this model, innovative publishing ventures will be needed to ensure scholarly societies remain relevant in the evolving landscape.

The percentage of open-access papers in IUCr's hybrid journals, co-published with Wiley, increased from 32% in 2020 to 45% in 2022, to 51% in 2023. This is chiefly a result of Wiley 'read and publish' deals that combine subscription and

open-access fees in an overall consortial deal. Wiley has signed up such deals with institutions in a large number of countries (e.g. Australia, Austria, Botswana, Canada, Colombia, Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hong Kong, Hungary, India, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Korea, Liechtenstein, Mexico, Namibia, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Singapore, Slovenia, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Thailand, Turkey, the UK and the USA), and is actively seeking further partners. Note that if authors have any questions about Wiley arrangements, they should be directed to Chester staff.

7.2. Affordability

In 2022, we continued to provide vouchers for discounted open access to authors and reviewers to try to boost take-up of open access. We also provided special open-access discounts to members of the IUCr Associates Programme, and to members of Regional Associates.

In recent years, there have been some indications of misuse of waivers for *Acta E*. It appeared that some authors may be masquerading as the correspondence author for the purpose of obtaining a full waiver. We now cap the number of times an author (contact, correspondence or co-author) can benefit from a waiver voucher in a particular year. The current cap level is ten articles per year. For any authors in waiver countries who wish to publish further articles than this in a year we offer a discounted open-access fee.

We have also been monitoring proposals to ensure equitable pricing for authors through the design of a globally tiered pricing framework for academic publishing.

7.3. Moving journals to open access

JSR was moved to open-access publication in January 2022. Considerations for moving other journals to open access will be discussed.

7.4. Open data and data requirements

The IUCr has adopted a data-sharing policy that requires the crystallographic data supporting the results in an article to be peer reviewed and archived either with the IUCr or in an appropriate public repository. For articles describing scripts or program code, whenever possible these and any other documentation necessary for reproduction of the published results should also be publicly archived. This policy applies to all IUCr journals. (In rare cases exceptions may be granted by the editors, for example when the sharing of data may compromise ethical standards or legal requirements.) More details of the policy are given at

<https://journals.iucr.org/services/datasharingpolicy.html>

The *Notes for authors* of journals covering macromolecular structure determinations have been modified to strengthen requirements for the reviewers to be able to access the underlying data. The *Notes for authors* of other journals will be updated over the next year, and the *Notes for reviewers* adjusted accordingly.

An update on the trial with DataQ concerning data-quality indicators will be reported at the meeting.

7.5. Data availability

Publishers of journals are increasingly incorporating data availability sections in articles for transparency and accountability reasons. Sharing research data enables others to replicate findings, verify methods, and build on existing knowledge. This enhances trust in scientific results and promotes overall research integrity. Additionally, many research funders now mandate data sharing, and journals risk losing submissions or funding opportunities if they do not comply. Furthermore, researchers and the wider scientific community are increasingly demanding open access to data, making it a

competitive advantage for journals to offer these sections and attract higher-quality contributions.

Should we include a more formal data-availability section in the back matter for our articles?

8. SPECIAL TOPICS

8.1. Early-career editorial boards

Kate McKellar will give a short talk on early-career editorial boards, and how they have been implemented in a number of Wiley journals.

8.2. Working with Commissions

Many new Commission chairs and members were appointed at the Melbourne Congress. This provides a chance to revisit how the journals can work more closely with the IUCr Commissions. We should try to make sure that all of the Commissions are covered in the scopes of one or more of the journals.

8.3. Long-term future of the journals and journals publishing

The IUCr plans to undertake a long-term review of its activities in the next year or so.

In relation to the journals, what ideas do we think it would be useful for the review to consider. Examples might include:

How will advances in AI, OA *etc.* affect IUCr journals?

Should we have a dedicated preprint server?

Should we concentrate on publishing rigorous science rather than considering impact?

If we were to start from scratch what would IUCr journals look like?

Will journal publication be relevant in 10 years time? If not, what services will be?

9. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

10. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Journals Management Board is scheduled for March 2025 in Chester to coincide with the spring meeting of the IUCr Finance Committee. In-person meetings of journal editors may be possible at 2024 meetings of the IUCr regional associates.