

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