

OCM.01.24.01

Acta Cryst. (2008). A64, C167

Overview of IUCr journals

Gernot Kostorz¹, Peter Strickland²

¹ETH Zurich, Wolfgang-Pauli-Str. 16, CH-8093 Zurich, Switzerland,

²IUCr Journals, 5 Abbey Square, Chester CH1 2HU, UK

The end of the triennium marks 60 years of publication of IUCr Journals, and a special issue to highlight this event has been published in *Acta Cryst. A*. The continued success of the Journals is based on many outstanding contributions of numerous members of the large, but highly interactive community of crystallographers as authors, referees, editors and Co-editors, supported by a competent and dedicated technical staff at Chester. Currently, about 150 section editors or Co-editors and 12 technical editors work for the Journals. The number of expert referees can only be guessed, and their confidential work deserves highest appreciation. The last triennium has seen a major increase in the number of pages published in IUCr Journals, up from 31521 in the previous triennium to 48261. This increase has largely been driven by the expansion of *Acta Cryst. E* and the launch of *Acta Cryst. F*. Online submission is now almost exclusively used and this has helped to keep publication times low across the Journals. The Journals continued to be highly cited in crystallography; the highest impact factors recorded during the triennium were 5.4 for *Acta Cryst. B* and 5.25 for *J. Appl. Cryst.* Ethics in science publication and open access have been topics of general concern during the triennium. All submissions to *Acta Cryst. C* and *E* are now routinely checked for duplication against the crystallographic databases, and the Journals also took part in a plagiarism pilot run by CrossRef. The hybrid open-access option introduced for authors in 2004 has become increasingly popular, and at the end of the triennium *Acta Cryst. E* was made into a full open-access journal. Current concerns and plans will be presented, and there will be ample time for the discussion of points raised at the session.

Keywords: journals publishing, IUCr journals, Commission on Journals

OCM.01.24.02

Acta Cryst. (2008). A64, C167

Acta crystallographica section A: Foundations of crystallography

Dieter Schwarzenbach

Crystallographie, EPFL, Le Cubotron, CH-1015 Lausanne, Switzerland,

E-mail: dieter.schwarzenbach@epfl.ch

Acta Crystallographica Section A reflects the gradual change of topics in crystallographic research. Classical topics such as direct methods of crystal structure determination and more recently electron crystallography, aperiodic crystals, diffuse scattering, or charge-density work gradually move to applications. Novel structure determination is now more connected with single particles and hybrid I/O methods. 40% of the papers may now be classified as mathematical, including topology and graphs for crystal chemistry, twinning and grain boundaries, and symmetry. Occasional papers on surface diffraction, nanostructures, polarized neutrons and databases complement the broad range of topics. Competing journals such as *Ultramicroscopy* are usually not in the domain of chemistry. This gradual change in orientation has resulted in a loss of volume of about 100 pages, or 10 research papers (510 pp. and 47 papers in 2007) with respect to the preceding triennium, but this trend now seems to have levelled off. The impact factor of 1.68 for 2006 is near the average

of the past 9 years. Section A is an attractive journal, but its eclectic range of papers calls for measures to increase its visibility. To this end, Section A has published special issues on Phase Transitions I (D. Pandey, 2005), the MaThCryst Summer School on Mathematical Crystallography (M. Nespolo, 2006) and the issue *60 years of Acta Crystallographica and the IUCr* (H. Schenk, 2008). Lead Articles and Topical Reviews have been published on time-resolved X-ray diffraction, 'forbidden' resonant reflections, and diffraction with a coherent X-ray beam.

Keywords: Acta crystallographica section A, IUCr journals

OCM.01.24.03

Acta Cryst. (2008). A64, C167

Acta crystallographica section B: Structural science

Carolyn P. Brock

Department of Chemistry, University of Kentucky, Lexington KY, 40506-0055, USA, E-mail: cpbrock@uky.edu

During the triennium 2005-2007 *Section B* of *Acta Cryst.* published 2808 pages that included 303 full Research Papers, 9 Short Communications, and 2 Feature Articles. The ratio of papers that discussed inorganic and molecular compounds rose from ca. 1:2 to 1:1 during the triennium, but that ratio has varied enough over the years that the existence of a trend is still somewhat uncertain. The widely publicized 'impact factor' that measures the short-term citation rate, rose rapidly (from 2.0 to 5.4) during the previous triennium because of citations to articles in the 2002 special issue on databases. That index dropped to more normal levels after citations to 2002 papers were no longer counted. The value in 2006 was 2.2. The strength of *Section B* is in the quality and durability of its articles rather than in their short-term impact. All those connected with the journal are very pleased with the quality of the papers being published. The average length of a full paper in *Section B* has remained near nine pages for years, but the amount of information included in each paper continues to rise. Papers reporting structures of more than five different compounds are not unusual. Neither are papers in which a structure is studied in detail as the crystal goes through a phase transition or undergoes a chemical reaction. Studies of incommensurately and commensurately modulated structures are common. Several methodological papers have appeared that will probably be well cited for years. The electronic links between the office in Chester and the Co-editors work so well that we take easy communication and sharing of files for granted. We are all very indebted to the Chester staff who keep improving the system and who do so much to make the page layouts attractive.

Keywords: Acta crystallographica section B, IUCr journals, structural science

OCM.01.24.04

Acta Cryst. (2008). A64, C167-168

Acta crystallographica section C: Crystal structure communications

George Ferguson

School of Chemistry, University of St. Andrews, St. Andrews, Fife, KY16 9ST Scotland, E-mail: actac@st-andrews.ac.uk

While *Acta Crystallographica Section E: Structure Reports Online*, recently became an open access journal, *Acta Crystallographica Section C: Crystal Structure Communications* continues the tradition

Open Commission Meetings

of a journal supported by reader subscriptions. The emphasis of *Section C* continues to be the rapid publication of full papers describing one or more interesting or unusual crystal structures in significant detail. High-quality detailed studies of novel and challenging crystal and molecular structures of interest in the fields of chemistry, biochemistry, mineralogy, pharmacology, physics and materials science are invited. *Section C* published 404 papers in 2005, 466 papers in 2006 and 451 papers in 2007. Publication times are now consistently between 1 and 2 months and the citation impact factor has risen from 0.78 in 2005 to 0.90 in 2007. Some 52% of original technically correct submissions to *Section C* in 2007 were subsequently withdrawn or rejected; the withdrawal/rejection rate was 50% in 2006 and 58% in 2005. The principal reason for withdrawal or rejection was either that the text in the Comment section of the CIF was deemed not to provide any 'significant added value to the numerical data freely available in the CIF' or that the submitted material was not in accord with the instructions in Notes for Authors. To assist Co-editors with the initial review of submissions it is now a requirement that the submitting author provide in the `_publ_contact_letter` section of the CIF a brief statement of what is novel or interesting about the structure(s) that merits publication in *Section C*. Authors are also asked to clearly state in the Abstract the potential scientific impact of the study. Details of the changes implemented in the past triennium will be discussed along with possible future initiatives.

Keywords: Acta crystallographica section C, IUCr journals

OCM.01.24.05

Acta Cryst. (2008). A64, C168

Acta crystallographica section D: Biological crystallography

E. N. Baker¹, Z. Dauter²

¹School of Biological Sciences, University of Auckland, Auckland, New Zealand, ²Biosciences Division, Argonne National Laboratory, Argonne IL60439, USA, E-mail: ted.baker@auckland.ac.nz, dauter@anl.gov

Acta D is dedicated to the still-expanding field of biological crystallography. The last triennium has seen a change in the focus, following the launch of our all-electronic sister journal *Acta F*. With this change, *Acta D* no longer publishes crystallization papers or routine structure reports. Our focus is on methods in biological crystallography and on structural papers that bring new insights into biology, chemistry or macromolecular structure. The two journals have settled into a good working relationship, with only a few papers falling on the borderline between them. Most of the latter are of the crystallization paper/methods type. *Acta D* has continued to publish many important methodological papers, and the special issue dedicated to the CCP4 Study Weekend series provides a high-profile first issue to each year. We also continue to receive a steady flow of quality structural papers. It is of some concern that our impact factor remains low, at about 1.7, and that we do not receive many truly high-profile structural papers; competition with biological journals has become more intense. On the other hand, the quality of production of the journal is very high, speed of publication is good (about 4.5 months), and the journal remains the premier forum for discussion of practice and policy in biological crystallography. In this respect *Acta D* is looked on as important and influential. We believe we have an opportunity to build on this standing through more topical reviews, commentaries and talking points.

Keywords: Acta crystallographica section D, IUCr journals, biological crystallography

OCM.01.24.06

Acta Cryst. (2008). A64, C168

Acta crystallographica section E: Structure reports online

William Clegg¹, David G. Watson²

¹School of Natural Sciences, Newcastle University, Newcastle upon Tyne NE1 7RU, UK, ²Cambridge Crystallographic Data Centre, 12 Union Road, Cambridge CB2 1EZ, UK, E-mail: w.clegg@ncl.ac.uk, watson@ccdc.cam.ac.uk

For the three years 2005-2007 the main headlines for *Acta E* are significant growth, and major changes in the format and publication model. The journal has seen large increases every year in the number of papers submitted and published: 2887 papers were published in 2005, 3991 in 2006, and 5181 in 2007. In order to deal with this growth, additional Co-editors have been appointed from time to time, the current number of 58 being almost double what it was at the end of 2004. Extra editorial staff resources have also been allocated to *Acta E* in the Chester office. It has been possible to keep the average time from submission to publication below one month. Following the 2006 IUCr Executive Committee decision to change *Acta E* to an open access journal, much work has been done to prepare for this major move. The cost and time involved in editing manuscripts, preparing proofs, and generating the final published articles was significantly reduced with the introduction of a shorter format in early 2007 for the page-numbered part of each paper, together with enhanced HTML and PDF supplements for most of the other material supplied by authors (except for structure factors, which are made available as a simple file in CIF format). The program *pubCIF* was developed and made freely available as a tool for authors and Co-editors in preparing raw CIFs for publication and handling them, and has proved very popular and useful. The open access model was introduced near the end of 2007, and makes the journal freely available to all without subscription; a modest charge is levied on authors, and there are waiver and discount schemes to encourage publication and avoid problems for authors in developing countries. The end of this three-year period thus marks the biggest change for *Acta E* since its launch in 2001.

Keywords: Acta crystallographica section E, IUCr journals, open access

OCM.01.24.07

Acta Cryst. (2008). A64, C168-169

Acta crystallographica section F: Structural biology and crystallization communications

Howard M. Einspahr¹, J. Mitchell Guss¹

¹PO Box 6395, Lawrenceville, New Jersey, USA, ²School of Molecular and Microbial Biosciences, University of Sydney, Australia, E-mail: hmeinspahr@yahoo.com, m.guss@mmb.usyd.edu.au

Acta Crystallographica Section F, Structural Biology and Crystallization Communications was launched in January 2005 as an online journal for rapid publication of structure and crystallization communications on biological macromolecules. The journal is covered by Medline and other leading abstracting and indexing services and is expected to receive its first impact factor in 2008. The journal published its first structure determined by NMR in 2006 and the following year the Editors were instrumental in updating the standards for publication of NMR structures in IUCr journals. In 2005-2007 the journal published 938 papers and 3492 pages, and publication times remain rapid at 2.4 months. To decrease publication times further, new tools have now been developed to allow authors