

## Journals

**MSOC.JR.01 REPORT ON SECTION A OF ACTA CRYSTALLOGRAPHICA.** A. Authier, Université P. et M. Curie, Paris, France.

Section A of *Acta Crystallographica* publishes papers reporting fundamental advances in all fields of crystallography. Contributions include Research Papers, Short Communications, Letters to the Editor, Lead Articles and Topical Reviews, the latter two being commissioned by the Section Editor. There is a steady flow of manuscripts and no major changes have been introduced. As for the other sections, the table of contents can now be consulted on the Web. The major problem is getting authors to write Lead Articles and Topical Reviews. There are a few coming in but much less than there should be, despite all the efforts by the editor to get more. The help of all Crystallographers is needed to improve the situation. The other problem is the time of publication. All efforts are made to reduce it by systematic use of FAX and email in communications with authors and referees and by asking authors to submit their manuscripts in machine-readable form.

**MSOC.JR.02 ACTA CRYSTALLOGRAPHICA, SECTION B.** Frank H. Allen, Cambridge Crystallographic Data Centre 12 Union Road, Cambridge CB2 1EZ, England

Section B of *Acta* appears bimonthly and has published an average of 136 Structural Science papers per year in the 1990's - a significant increase over its early years (1983-89). The loss of some biological papers to the new Section D since 1993 has been compensated by an increased submission rate to Section B. Journal content now also incorporates a controlled amount of review material, as comprehensive Lead Articles and, since 1994, as the shorter, more focused Topical Reviews. However, the principal purpose of Section B is to publish full Research Papers, covering topics that span the complete breadth of non-biological crystallography and its impact on related sciences. This diversity can be seen as a strength and Section B plays its part in the IUCr publication scenario: "to offer a central place for publication and discussion of all research in this vast and ever-expanding field". Section B is now carefully building on the CIF input schemes pioneered by Section C in the moves towards integrated electronic publishing mechanisms.

This paper will discuss (a) areas of possible overlap with other IUCr journals, particularly the policies with regard to publication of crystal structure reports in Sections B and C, (b) the diversity of content of Section B and its relationship to other competing non-IUCr journals, (c) the relationship of review material to primary scientific papers (d) procedures for commissioning reviews, and (e) the onward development of machine-readable submission procedures for numerical data and for complete manuscripts.

Finally, I should like to thank the Staff of the IUCr Editorial Office in Chester, UK for their skill, cooperation and enthusiasm in the journal production process.

**MSOC.JR.03 STATUS OF ACTA CRYSTALLOGRAPHICA SECTION C.** S R Hall, Crystallography Centre, University of Western Australia, Nedlands 6907, Australia

A general report on the publication of Section C, over the past triennium, will be presented. Substantial changes to the printed format of the journal, its submission requirements and its ancillary services have taken place during this period. These developments will be discussed, as will be the future changes, including electronic delivery, expected during the forthcoming triennium. There was marked improvement in the publication rate of Section C papers in 1995. The number manuscripts received increased by 10% over 1994, and the number of papers published rose by over 25%. These result from the concerted effort to remove checking and editing backlogs at the Chester office, and the much higher ratio of CIF electronic submissions (over 90% in Dec. '95). A contributing factor to these improvements was the imposition of stricter initial filtering at Chester on received manuscripts. This has significantly reduced time lost later in the review process due to trivial omissions or errors. In addition to a faster publication rate in 1995, the overall quality of Section C papers continues to improve. This appears to result from a combination of stricter initial submission requirements, consistent adherence to the review criteria and greater experience on the part of authors with this type of presentation. These factors, coupled with new Contents format (on- paper and electronic), cover presentation, and CIF submission and checking facilities, have contributed to Section C becoming "the benchmark" in structural science publications.

**MSOC.JR.04 ACTA CRYSTALLOGRAPHICA, SECTION D.** By Jenny P. Glusker, The Institute for Cancer Research, Fox Chase Cancer Center, Philadelphia, PA 19111.

*Acta Crystallographica*, Section D is devoted to "Biological Crystallography." Articles considered for this section cover both structural results and the development of new methods aimed at helping to solve and interpret such crystal structures. An overview of the contents of the journal to date will be presented.

All authors of macromolecular publications must submit atomic coordinates to the Protein Data Bank (Brookhaven), and provide a Brookhaven number prior to the final proof stage. Structure factors must also be deposited.

Various problems encountered by authors and editors will be described and the audience is encouraged to provide input on how to ensure high quality and general interest in the articles in this journal.

**MSOC.JR.05 THE JOURNAL OF APPLIED CRYSTALLOGRAPHY 1993-1996.** A.M. Glazer, Clarendon Laboratory, University of Oxford, Parks Rd., Oxford OX1 3PU, United Kingdom.

The Journal of Applied Crystallography has been published by the International Union for more than 28 years. In the last three years, a number of changes have been instituted, which have enhanced the journal and have made it of more widespread use. For instance, new sections have been added, such as the Cryocrystallography reports, which will serve primarily the biological crystallography community. These changes will be described in some more detail and it is hoped that discussion on new additions to the journal will be stimulated.