

## Structure Reports **Online**: from infancy to maturity

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The IUCr's purely electronic journal continues to flourish. In its second year of operation 923 papers were published, an increase of 15% over the previous year; the August and December issues both contained 100 or more papers. The contributions were distributed as follows: inorganic 5%, metal-organic 32%, and organic 63%. It is interesting to note that, in both of the first two years, a very large proportion of papers originated from laboratories in India, Southeast Asia and the People's Republic of China, and it is clear that authors are taking the opportunity to publish results of some challenging crystallographic problems. Turnround continues to be impressively satisfying, with an average of less than one month from receipt to publication.

Some small additions have been made to *Notes for Authors* for 2003. These include an explanation of the standard codes for the CIF data item `chemical_absolute_configuration`, along with information on how to enter extra tables in the CIF. The *Notes for Authors* can be found under 'Author services' at <http://journals.iucr.org/e/journalhomepage.html>, the journal's home page.

During recent months efforts have been made to rationalize and improve the checking of CIF files by a combination of *checkCIF* and *PLATON*. A number of people have had an opportunity to test the new scheme and we hope that it will be available to authors early in 2003.

Further assistance to authors, particularly those that use the most popular structure refinement software, is provided in the following editorial article, which discusses some of the most common problems the Co-editors and editorial staff have to handle in submissions. We hope that this will serve to improve the quality of CIF submissions, reduce the amount of correspondence needed between Co-editors and authors, and make life a little easier for all those involved in the editorial process.

As predicted in last year's *Editorial*, we have had to appoint more Co-editors. It is a pleasure to welcome Dr Judith Flippin-Anderson (Naval Research Laboratory, Washington DC), Dr Alan Lough (University of Toronto), and Professor Helen Stoeckli-Evans (University of Neuchâtel). This brings to 17 the number of Co-editors, and we thank them all for their hard work throughout 2002. Equally we are all grateful for the dedication of the editorial team in Chester, without whom we would not be celebrating these achievements.

We look forward to further consolidation and growth in 2003.