

Editorial

It is publishing policy that the number of pages that will appear in a year's issues of a journal is predetermined. Although some issues appeared fatter and some thinner for 1999, the overall total pages delivered in the journal was 1100 pages which was slightly above budget. The popularity of the journal as a communication channel for world-class research dissemination in carbohydrate polymers has increased. To avoid an increase in publication time we are pleased to announce that the page budget for the year 2000 has been increased by over 200 pages, meaning that in general each issue should be larger than in 1999. Refereeing standards will be increased.

The impact factor of *Carbohydrate Polymers* has steadily increased from 1996, to the extent that the last available figures show the journal as having rankings in the top 25% of journals in Polymer Science and Applied Chemistry. This is a pleasing result.

The editors have considered the value of "special issues" in which the whole, or part of the issue is composed of papers arising out of a particular conference. We want to assure readers that such papers still undergo full refereeing. With the aid of much improved computerised monitoring it is possible to measure the impact of individual issues, so we

know that the impact factor of *Carbohydrate Polymers* has not been adversely affected by the inclusion of these papers.

With the increasing serious focus upon carbohydrate polymers, their properties, utility, and the availability of funding for research into them, we believe the journal will achieve the following:

1. an increase in the submission rate of world-class original papers from the leading research groups around the world,
2. an increase in readership,
3. an increase in the average quality of the papers published.

If you as a reader have anything to offer which you believe will help please email (or write to) us.

Thank you for your interest in *Carbohydrate Polymers*.

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