

Editorial

The journal *Chemical Communications* was launched in 1965 and quickly became established as a leading journal for the rapid publication of work in inorganic, organic, physical and structural chemistry. This position has been maintained over the years and the journal has an impressive world-wide circulation (Fig.1).

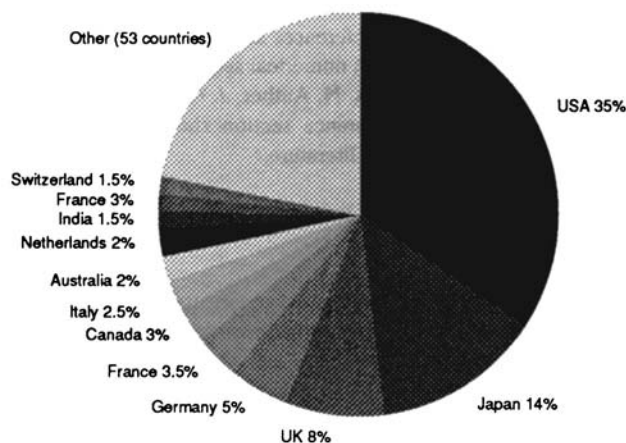


Fig. 1 Geographical distribution of subscribers for 1993

Chemical Communications enjoys an increasing popularity with authors (Fig. 2) and, in order to help the editorial staff to ensure that the high quality of the journal is maintained, the Editorial Board was reconstituted in July 1993. The remit of the Board is simply to ensure that scientists in any branch of chemistry have a vehicle to bring interesting results to the attention of colleagues world-wide quickly and in a stylish fashion. To achieve this aim the Board will be making a small number of changes to the journal.

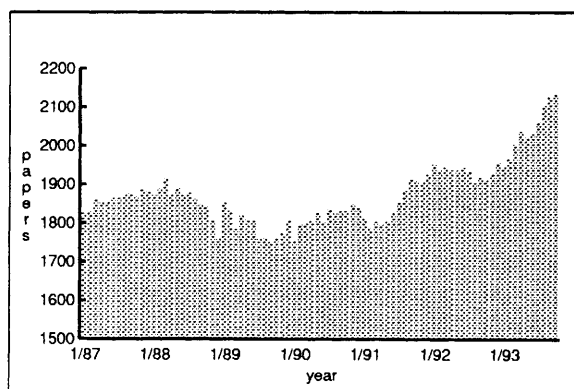


Fig. 2 Rolling annual submissions, 1987–1993

First, from 1st January 1994, every communication will start at the top of a right-hand page. Authors will thus be restricted to two full pages and referees have been instructed keenly to enforce this new rule. Only in very exceptional circumstances, where an overwhelming case has been made, will an author be allowed to publish a four-page article.

At present, the time taken for an article to be published is in the region of 110–120 days from the date of receipt (Fig. 3). We intend to cut this time to around 90 days over the next months. The appointment of a limited panel of referees will be a key feature in this intended improvement in service. In addition authors will be asked to minimise the time taken to make minor amendments to scripts which are otherwise acceptable, and in returning their corrected proofs. Whenever it is appropriate, the editorial staff will use fax and electronic mail for correspondence. The mechanism of handling scripts in North America will be changed by the appointment of an Associate Editor in the USA.

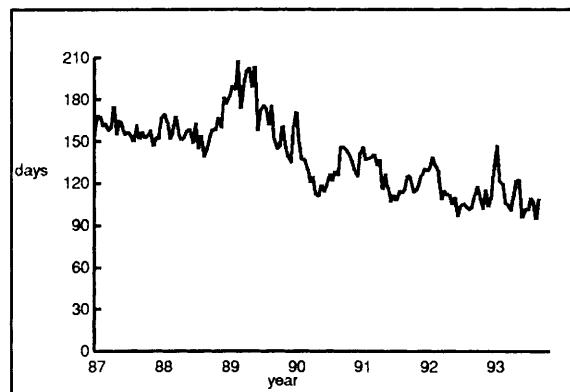


Fig. 3 Publication times, 1987–1993. $t(50\%)$ = time from receipt for publication of the fastest 50% of communications in each issue

To facilitate the rapid scanning of the contents of an issue of the journal, Graphical Abstracts will be introduced in July 1994.

Finally, it is the intention of the Board to attract an ever-increasing number of world-class authors to the benefits of publishing in this journal of the Royal Society of Chemistry. High-quality chemistry from any branch of the subject will be published and it will no longer be necessary to feel that the material will be of 'general interest' to the readership.

The fortunes of the journal are riding high and we believe that they are set for further improvement. *Chemical Communications* is a unique journal; though its size is bound to increase, we will maintain the professionalism within the editorial office and the high standard of presentation of the contents.

Stanley Roberts
Chairman, Editorial Board

Peter Whittington
Editor