

Editorial

All the journals of the American Chemical Society are now available via the Web. The Web editions introduce features not possible in the print version. These include the possibility to view (and subsequently download) articles either as a complete page image (PDF) or as interactive text (HTML), interactive links to other databases, articles posted as soon as proofs are returned, and authors' access to free reprints from a designated Web site.

Two major enhancements are the linking of each citation within a journal article to the corresponding reference at the end of the paper and the linking of the references to the full text articles and/or the abstract records at Chemical Abstracts Service. Prior to this, only full text links to other ACS journals and Medline (via PubMed) were available. In the future it is planned to expand these linkages to include journals distributed by other publishers. These features will provide users seamless access to the literature.

The *Journal* changed to the author–year method of citing references in 1995 because of author preference and to be compatible with *Ind. Eng. Chem. Res.* It has been established that the above linking cannot be done with the reference style currently used in this *Journal*. It can only be done with the superscript number method of citing in the text. The Editors feel that the interests of our subscribers would be best served by giving them access to the full range of features available in the electronic version. Hence, we have decided to abandon the author–year citation method in favor of the number method.

This change will be effective immediately. The description of the new format is given in the 2000 Guide for Authors that appears in this issue. Authors should note that the accuracy of the reference is essential in order for ACS editorial staff to make the correct links with the abstract and full text articles.

An additional feature of the electronic version is the availability of fifty free reprints that authors can distribute through the ACS World Wide Web site from the time the article is posted on the Web. Authors can link to this site from their own site to allow colleagues access to the reprints.

During 2000, various enhancements to the way manuscripts are handled will be investigated. Emphasis will be on the handling of manuscripts by Editors and Reviewers electronically in order to speed the reviewing process.

Kenneth N. Marsh, *Editor*

JE9904816