

Publisher's note

Beginning with this issue a change, which will be obvious to the reader, has been made in the layout of the papers. A less obvious change was introduced some time ago.

The obvious change concerns the style of typography in the bibliographic information at the beginning of each paper. The reason for this adjustment is that Elsevier is, for most of its journals, gradually transferring from conventional typesetting to production from electronically stored information. The requirements for computer storage and flexibility in type of output set some limitations on style. There is insufficient space here to outline the computer aspects in detail. In practical terms, however, we believe the new format will mean greater clarity in such items as titles and names.

The less obvious change concerns the type of paper used for the journal. A major goal of papermakers has been to produce longer-lasting paper. Acidity in paper is recognised as one factor that influences its permanence. It is considered that acid-catalysed hydrolysis of cellulose is one of the major causes of ageing in acidic papers. Whatever the reasons, there is much worldwide concern, particularly among librarians, about the consequences of paper deterioration on collections of old books and journals. In order to play a positive role in dealing with this problem, we have now decided to print the journal on acid-free paper.

We trust that our authors and readers will welcome our attempts to keep the journal at the forefront of developments in the rapidly changing information world.