

Editorial – New Features

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Polymer Bulletin will have four new features:

- Online system for manuscript submission and editorial processing
- Online publication within two weeks from acceptance
- Overall publication time of 2-3 months
- Page limit increased to 12 pages

Beginning in July 2004 Springer will introduce an *online system for manuscript submission and editorial processing*. With ManuscriptCentral, all processing of Polymer Bulletin manuscripts, from submittal to acceptance for publication, is exclusively electronic and online. The author's initial submittal of a manuscript is online. The Editor and reviewers all retrieve the manuscript online, the author receives the reviewer's comments and the publication decision by e-mail and submits a revised manuscript online, and the final accepted manuscript is also forwarded to the publisher online. Everyone has access to the same online system.. The new steps announced here make processing of a Polymer Bulletin manuscript, from submittal to publication, completely electronic.

Please note that you still have to use our *Word template* for creating the camera-ready layout. Only then can we guarantee the fast publication time.

These new arrangements should provide several advantages: mailing and courier costs are reduced for authors and Polymer Bulletin staff, because most transactions now occur online. The length of time between manuscript submittal and publication decision will be shorter because not only will manuscript transactions be transported nearly instantaneously, but also all transactions will be carefully tracked by the Polymer Bulletin Editorial Offices. These offices will prompt all reviewers to keep to promised completion schedules for each review step on each manuscript and each author to keep the given time for revision (2 weeks for minor and 8 weeks for major revision). In total we will publish a manuscript from submission by the author until publication within 2-3 months.

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The Editors and the Publisher decided to increase the maximum ***number of pages*** per article from 8 to 12.