

EDITORIAL

Modern Times

are fast. The shortest possible **publication times** are demanded from scientific journals. Whenever there is a choice between speed and quality, speed all too often wins—this is also true in science, even when the research results are not to be patented. Here, however complaining does not help; a journal such as *Angewandte Chemie* must meet the challenge to combine quality and speed. On the one hand, between 1998 and 2001, the *average* publication time for Communications, from submission to electronic and print release—which are only a few days apart for *Angewandte Chemie*—was reduced from around 190 to about 150 days, and we won't stop there! On the other hand, the consistent efficiency of a strong editorial team ensures that particularly important work in competitive areas is published extremely rapidly. Thus, the last issue of 2001 contains two Communications by Patrick Harran et al. on the total synthesis of nominal diazonamides which first arrived in the editorial office on November 15th: The time between submission and electronic publication was 29 days, and between submission and print was 32 days. In this period, both manuscripts were reviewed by three referees, revised by the author, and processed by the editorial office; in addition the author and editors were able to check the galley proofs and the page proofs, so that the quality was not compromised in any way.

Although this **fast track** has in the past been used occasionally, it should, as from the next issue, be a regular feature of *Angewandte Chemie*. Very Important Papers (VIPs) and Hot

Papers, which until now have been presented only with a short text on our homepage (www.angewandte.com) long before the actual publication, will in future be placed in the first available issue after their acceptance. The publication time will thus more than ever be determined by the refereeing process and the time authors take to revise a manuscript.

Ephemerality is the sister of rapidity: Electronic publishing makes it possible to analyze the number of “hits” on a single article and shows that 90% of the hits are within the first three months of publication. However, the number of hits at *Angewandte Chemie* after the first three months, are still far higher than for other journals, and the review articles are accessed most often. The classic **Reviews** in *Angewandte Chemie* are a proven antidote against ephemerality in chemistry. The importance of the Reviews has in no way been diminished by the more recent supplementary shorter forms (**Essay** and **Minireview**). The distinction between the different contributions to *Angewandte Chemie* are outlined

Table 1. Origin of communications from January to November 2001. Manuscripts with authors from several different countries were assigned to the country of the submitting author.

Country	Number
USA	373
Germany	337
Japan	272
China	210
UK	105
France	93
South Korea	71
India	67
Spain	67
Italy	56
Switzerland	52
Canada	48
The Netherlands	30
Israel	26
Taiwan	25
Australia	16
Belgium	13
Singapore	13
Poland	11
Sweden	11
Others	61

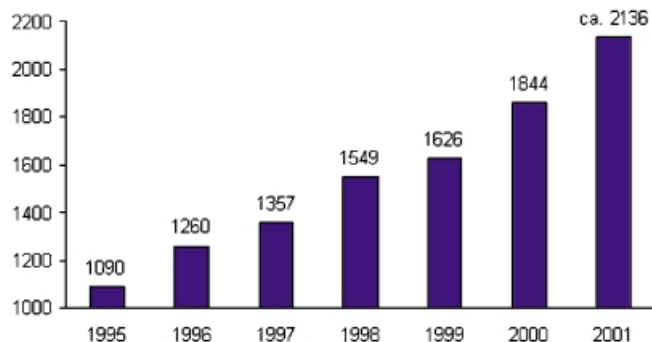


Figure 1. Number of communications submitted to *Angewandte Chemie* from 1995 to 2001.

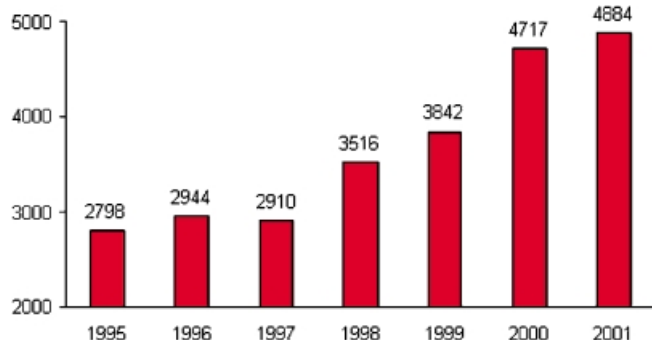


Figure 2. Total number of pages published in *Angewandte Chemie International Edition* from 1995 to 2001.

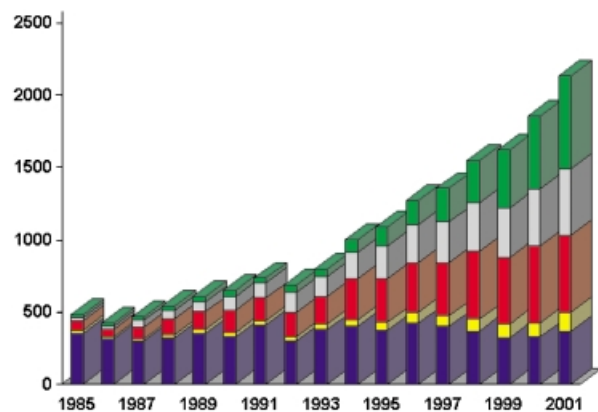


Figure 3. Regional origins of submitted communications between 1985 and 2001 (the figures for this year have been extrapolated on the basis of the numbers for the first eleven months). Color coding: blue: Germany, red: Western Europe, gray: North America, green: East Asia, yellow: other countries.

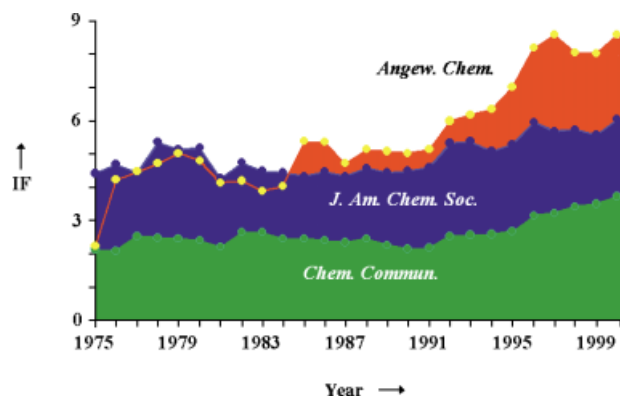


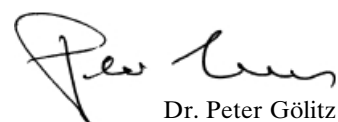
Figure 4. Development of the Impact Factors (IF) of *Chemical Communications*, *Journal of the American Chemical Society*, and *Angewandte Chemie* since 1975.

in the *Concise Notice to Authors* on our homepage and after the Table of Contents in this issue. The *Guidelines for the Preparation of Manuscripts* is now only available on our homepage; these should be consulted while preparing a manuscript, as a correctly formatted submission can be processed more rapidly. We gladly accept manuscripts that are sent by e-mail, although such submissions should ideally consist of a maximum of four files (manuscript with incorporated graphics, graphical material, and supporting information as compressed PDF files, and an accompanying letter).

Not only do authors want fast publication times, readers want rapid uptake of information! Too often, the reader jumps hastily from the title to the introduction and on to the summary, before proceeding straight to the next article. In future, to cater better for the needs of the **speed reader**, the sections at the beginning and at the end of publications will be presented in a more reader-friendly manner (see also the *Concise Notice to Authors*).

Modern times are also times of deception, and science is no exception. "Minor" deceptions come to the fore: missing and/or misleading literature citations, concealment of own related publications upon submission, double submission of the same work to different journals, and unethical use of information by referees for personal advantage are just a few of the transgressions that the editorial office has to deal with. All these **transgressions** are addressed in the "Ethical Guidelines to the Publication of Chemical Research" by the American Chemical Society; these internationally accepted rules are regarded as binding at *Angewandte Chemie*.

In spite of everything, modern times are also times of openness and **transparency**. To finish, an overview of the last year at *Angewandte Chemie* follows. By the end of November, at the time of writing this editorial, we had already received 100 more Communications than in the whole of the year 2000, that is, manuscript submission has risen by about 15% (Figure 1). The rejection rate increased significantly (from 56% to just over 60%); the total number of pages of the journal has grown by ca. 160 pages (Figure 2). Additionally, more manuscripts are being submitted from all around the world (Figure 3). For example, for the first time more than 400 Communications (extrapolated figure) were received from the USA; most striking is the increase in submissions from the People's Republic of China. Table 1 on the previous page gives an overview of the origin of manuscripts according to country (January to November 2001). The Impact Factor has also developed positively (Figure 4). But the most important is that we could present lots of wonderful chemistry in *Angewandte Chemie* in 2001, and even more should come in 2002.


Dr. Peter Göllitz