

## Growth and Change

The past year for EurJIC has been characterized by growth and change. Both are vital for life and therefore welcomed. There is no doubt that EurJIC consequently faces many challenges – another sign of vibrant life.

The first change took effect at the beginning of 2003 when the structure of the journal changed to be analogous with that of other journals of the European family. Simultaneously the first indication of burgeoning submissions became evident (see Figure 1). Following the trend, early in

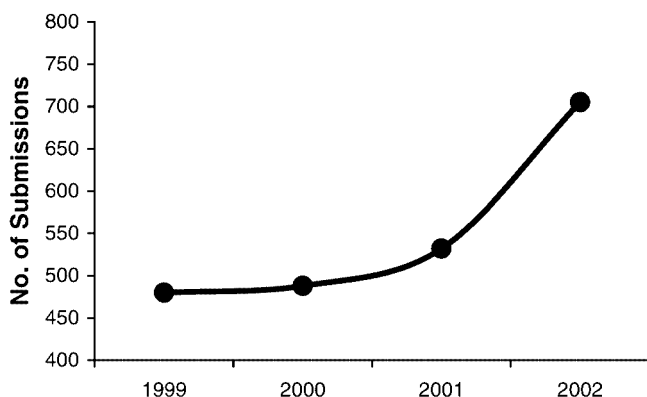


Figure 1. Number of submissions to EurJIC per year from 1999 to 2002

October 2003 EurJIC had already received the same number of submissions as in 2002. The excellent support from the Editorial Board members enabled the journal to cope with this exceptional development. We thank the Board members most sincerely for their invaluable suggestions and

**Invaluable  
support from  
Editorial Board**

advice that has contributed significantly to the growth in quality and not just “quantity” of EurJIC.

Readers will have noticed that the journal arrived twice a month, but the individual issues hardly diminished in size. We expanded the editorial office to accommodate this growth, but also introduced the publishing of articles in EarlyView to speed up the access to new publications. These EarlyView articles are fully citable by DOI, although they have not yet been assigned to an issue.

Publication times are falling as a result: even before EarlyView by DOI, the average time from submission to publication on the Web had dropped to less than five and a half months for full papers and three and a half months for the urgent Short Communications. Thus, speed of publication remains a priority,

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but speed is not everything. EurJIC will continue to allow peer reviewers sufficient time to comment soundly on a manuscript. Some of our referees invest a lot of time in communicating their impression of a paper in writing to the author. But the peer-review process does not stop there: many authors appreciate this new look at their work and undertake time-consuming experiments to test the ideas before submitting their revised version. All researchers profit from this process through more detailed papers, although the publication is delayed by this assiduity. Here we expressly thank each reviewer and author who exercises this dedication for the betterment of science.

Peer review is a laborious process. In recognition of the load of some scientists, we attempt to keep the number of

**Peer reviewers  
acknowledged**

manuscripts for each reviewer down to well below one a month. With expanding submissions this is a difficult task and calls for innovative methods. We wish to thank all Editorial Board members, Advisory Board members, but also experts in fields not covered by the Boards, for their willing participation in experimentation for preselection of manuscripts. Your contribution is enormous. You keep the quality of the journal high, the work of fellow reviewers lower, and help prevent the fragmentation of our science literature into a collection of least publishable units.

The drawbacks of modern technology also impinge on publishing. For speed, e-mail communication is preferred, but in general, partially as a result of Spam mails and stringent firewalls, about 5% of

mail is blocked without returning a warning to the sender. A confirmation of receipt is a two-edged sword: the reviewer receives even more mail. The alternative is not knowing whether the report has arrived in the Editorial Office. Our solution to this dilemma is to send our thanks in the topic line ending with EOM (end of message). Such a mail can be clicked away without opening.

E-mail attachments are often suspect. ManuscriptXpress, the new online submission of manuscripts in conjunction with the author/referee homepage system, precludes the necessity of sending



manuscripts as WORD, RTF, or PDF attachments. Directly from their computers authors can upload a docu-

ment, which the system then uses to generate a PDF file. This PDF file can be easily accessed by the referees through their personal homepages, who can then submit their reports online. Authors can also conveniently gain access to their own manuscripts at any stage of publication by the same means. "No more tedious copying!" said one of our authors who preferentially submits through ManuscriptXpress. For more information, please refer to our Guidelines for Authors on page A1. There are advantages for all. Referees can refer to their reports, which are archived together with the original PDF versions of the manuscript. This system, together with the reorganization of the editorial office, has helped to reduce our publication times, in spite of an increase of 30% in the pages published.

The combined editorial office of EurJIC and EurJOC are always ready to help if anything is unclear.

Unusual mention  
of exceptional  
performance

Early in 2003 the system was still new to authors and referees. The secretarial staff and assistants at the

challenging interface between editorial office and customer did all in their power to assist, from talking an author through submission to submitting the

manuscript by proxy – at a time when their learning curve with ManuscriptXpress was steep and the workload was extreme. In spite of the pressure they kept cheerful. They have deservedly earned my admiration and thanks (editor, KJH). Try them – you'll receive friendly assistance.

The advantages of modern technology enable scientists to keep up with the literature almost automatically! Everyone, not only subscribers, can regularly receive the Table of Contents of an issue by e-mail when it is published ("**Content Alerts**"), as well as information tailored to specific research interests about titles and authors of current articles ("**Profiled Alerts**"). More information about this service can be found at <http://www.interscience.wiley.com/alerts>. If you have no access to the journal but need one of the articles for your research, the Pay-per-View system will provide it in a minimum of time.

Research the  
literature while  
you sleep!

Some of these advances have been initiated by a request from an author, reviewer, or reader. EurJIC takes your suggestions seriously and encourages you to keep up the contact.

We are proud of our journal, which is developing well, as witnessed by the constant increase in the Impact Factor. EurJIC is now a well-established journal for both organometallic and material chemists, although a lot remains to be done to attract more contributions from other important areas within the inorganic chemistry community, such as bioinorganic chemistry as well as technological applications of inorganic compounds. It will be our duty to attract more submissions from these important fields and to make EurJIC a really outstanding journal for the whole community of inorganic chemists.

On behalf of the Editorial Board and the Editorial Office, the Chairman of the Board and the Editor wish you all a happy and successful 2004.

*Ivano Bertini*

Chairman of the Editorial Board

*Karen J. Hindson*

Editor