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Instructions to Authors. The *Policy of the Journal* and *Instructions to Authors* appeared in *Biochem. J.* (1983) **209**, 1-27. A summarized version appears in part 2 of each volume.

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NOTICE FOR CONTRIBUTORS

The *Biochemical Journal* places emphasis on the prompt publication of both **full-length papers** (on average about 6 months after receipt) and **rapid papers** (on average within 12 weeks after receipt) on all aspects of Biochemistry. Papers are accepted from non-members and members of the Biochemical Society. The *Biochemical Journal* makes no manuscript handling charges, no page charges and no charges for plates. Fifty reprints are provided free of charge; further copies are available at modest cost.

The present division of the Journal into **Molecular and Cellular Aspects** will cease at the beginning of 1984. Authors should however state under which section in the Contents List their paper should appear:

Proteins

Enzymes

Carbohydrates

Lipids

Nucleic acids and molecular genetics

Synthesis and degradation of macromolecules

Intermediary metabolism and metabolic control

Bioenergetics and transport

Membranes and receptors

Cell structure and function

Methods

Papers submitted for publication should be addressed to the Editorial Secretary, *Biochemical Journal*, 7 Warwick Court, London WC1R 5DP, U.K.

The paragraphs below are a summarized version of information provided in the Biochemical Society's *Policy of the Journal and Instructions to Authors* [*Biochem. J.* (1983) **209**, 1-27].

General Requirements

The following types of submission are considered by the Editorial Board.

1. **Full-length Papers** (normally eight printed pages maximum).
2. **Rapid Papers** (four printed pages maximum).
3. **Letters** (maximum two printed pages).
4. **Reviews** (usually solicited).

Publication delays can be minimized if authors prepare their papers in the form described below and write in a concise style. In the Board's view, most **Full-length Papers** should not normally exceed eight printed pages, including figures and tables. Longer papers may be acceptable if their content justifies their

length. Indeed, the Board's desire to restrict the length of papers should not lead authors to split their work into two or more shorter papers. For example, a single paper consisting justifiably of ten printed pages will normally be considered more favourably than two papers each of six pages dealing with the same material. Authors should remember that short papers are generally published with the least delay.

All papers that can be accommodated in four pages of the Journal will be treated as **Rapid Papers**. They receive priority reviewing and it is aimed for their publication to be within 12 weeks of receipt. In order to achieve this schedule, proofs of accepted Rapid Papers are not normally supplied to authors. However, authors are given details of any editing of Rapid Papers at the same time that the typescripts are sent to the printer, with a request that any essential amendments be sent to the Editorial Secretary as soon as possible. The scientific editorial staff in the Editorial Office check the proofs to ensure that they tally exactly with the edited typescripts and make any necessary alterations indicated by the authors.

Full-length Papers and Rapid Papers

Three copies of the typescript should be submitted. The typescript should bear the name and address of the person to whom correspondence (including proofs) should be sent. An additional copy of the synopsis should be enclosed to facilitate selection of reviewers by the Chairman. The top copy should be accompanied by the original artwork (see the Appendix to *Policy of the Journal and Instructions to Authors* for advice on the preparation of figures). Photocopies of line drawings are acceptable for the other two copies but glossy prints (not photocopies) of all the halftone figures must be provided. Two copies will be sent simultaneously to two reviewers. The third copy will be held in the Editorial Office to be used in case of loss or if an additional reviewer is required.

Before preparing papers, authors should consult a current issue of the Journal to make themselves familiar with the general format, such as the use of cross-headings, lay-out of tables and citation of references. Typescripts should be in double-spaced typing throughout (including the references and legends of tables and figures) on sheets of uniform size with wide margins.

Papers on specialized subjects should be intelligible to the ordinary reader of the Journal. Sufficient information must be included to permit repetition of the experimental work.

It is helpful if the author encloses copies of relevant preceding papers, especially if these were not published in the *Biochemical Journal*. If the paper submitted refers to a paper 'in the press' in another journal the reviewers will not have access to this material and it is important that the author should include photocopies of the relevant typescript together with documentary evidence that it has been accepted for publication. Any reference to a 'personal communication' must be supported by documentary evidence from the individual quoted showing that agreement with the quotation is given.

The full title should be concise but informative enough for use in coding for information storage and retrieval. Papers should also be headed by the authors' names (preferably with one forename in full for each author, other forenames being given as initials) and by the name and address of the establishment where the work was done. A running title of up to 60 letters and spaces should also be given.

Separate papers in a series may not be numbered, but subtitles may be used if they are particularly necessary.

The synopsis, which can be in numbered sections, should be of less than 250 words (60 words for rapid papers) and normally only 3–4% of the length of the

paper. It should be as informative as possible for abstracting journals or 'fringe' readers but should not contain inessential details or materials not described in the body of the paper.

The main body of the paper may be divided into (a) the **introduction**; (b) **Experimental**, including materials and methods; (c) **Results**; (d) **Discussion**; (e) **acknowledgements**, including details of financial support; (f) **References**. It is often an advantage to combine (b) and (c) (e.g. in papers describing techniques) or (c) and (d) with gains of conciseness and clarity. In chemical papers, the Experimental section may be placed after the Discussion. The Discussion section should not recapitulate the Results, but only discuss their implications.

Full-length Papers should not normally exceed 6000 words in length, and Rapid Papers must not exceed 3000 words, each inclusive of title, synopsis and references. Authors must assess what proportion of a page insertions (such as tables, figures and schemes) will occupy and reduce the number of text words accordingly at the rate of 800 words per full page of the Journal.

B.J. Letters

'B.J. Letters' are intended to provide an opportunity to discuss, criticize or expand particular points made in published work, or to present a new hypothesis. They should not be comments on general aspects of the biochemical world, nor should they be used as an alternative to a rapid paper. If a

letter is polemical in nature, a reply may be solicited from other interested parties before its publication.

Letters should be addressed to the Editorial Secretary. Typescripts should be submitted in triplicate, written in English using the spellings and abbreviations that are approved by the Journal. No synopsis is required. B.J. Letters must not exceed 1200 words in length, which is approximately the equivalent of two printed pages. One Scheme, Table or Figure may be included if this is essential, but the preparation of these is likely to increase publication time. To minimize delay in publication, accepted Letters are treated in the same way as Rapid Papers. Contributions that are not being published will be returned to the authors with minimal delay.

Reviews

Biochemical Journal Reviews will usually be solicited, although unsolicited reviews will be considered for publication; however, prospective writers of reviews should first consult the Chairman of the Editorial Board.

Reprints and Permissions

All communications about reprints should be addressed to the Executive Secretary, The Biochemical Society, 7 Warwick Court, London WC1R 5DP.

Requests for consent for reproduction of material should be addressed to the Editorial Manager at the above address.

CHANGES IN 1984: AUTHORS AND SUBSCRIBERS PLEASE NOTE

As from January 1984, the *Biochemical Journal* will no longer be published as two separate Aspects – Molecular and Cellular. It will continue to appear twice monthly but in a single format with the cover design shown on this leaflet. Papers will not be grouped in any way, although the sectionalization of the contents list will be retained. Eight volumes (nos. 217–224) of three parts each will be published in 1984.

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