

nine newsletters are linked with stock centres and others may be more loosely connected. Through *DIS*, there are two stock centres in the United States and one in Sweden. A recent list contained over 4,500 items. The stock centre for species other than *D. melanogaster* had a list of 370 species named and unnamed and 2,920 individual items.

Collections

Finally, there is the museum collection; for the zoologist or botanist, this is the equivalent of the geneticist's stock collection. Collections are scattered like unregarded chaff over the world¹ — Manchester University's database records more than 18,000 natural science collections in Britain alone. *Ichnews* has a section on museum collections; *Circulio* published an account of the collections in Hamburg University Museum; *Tymbal* recorded that Carolina State University has 250,000 specimens of Homoptera and that the university library has important literature holdings. *Heteropterists' Newsletter* evaluated 115 collections from 35 countries. *Coccidologist's Newsletter* had a 29-page list of species at Beltsville, including 1,400 species, 60,000 slides and over 16,000 boxes of dry materials.

The editors could encourage more descriptions and listings of museum collections and even rationalization and exchange of material. Small searchable databases on museum collections throughout the world might be coordinated through the newsletters. *Chryso-mela* lists some members who are willing to identify particular groups.

What of the future? I know of no research newsletters in medicine and only one in biochemistry. Are these fields too competitive? Because research newsletters are cheap and foster cooperative research, the number will steadily increase providing that circulation is limited to genuine workers in the subject. Newsletters are especially valuable in the Third World and very small sums given to assist publication would be very effective aid. If or when we all communicate through computer networks, individual workers and those in the Third World will be left out in the cold: research newsletters could link computer networks with those outside.

Bibliographies, museum collections, stock collections, technical notes: research newsletters are a cheap and efficient way of promulgating information, even though they may be the untraceable publishing the uncitable. □

1. Wyatt, H.V. *Br. Lib. R & D Rep.* No. 5897 (1985).
2. Carson, J. & Wyatt, H.V. *J. Docum.* 39, 155–165 (1983).
3. Wyatt, H.V. *J. Docum.* 23, 321–327 (1967).
4. Wyatt, H.V. (ed.) *Information Sources in the Life Sciences* 3rd edn (Butterworths, London, 1987).

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New journals June 1985 to May 1986

CRITERIA for journals to be considered for review in this issue were circulated to publishers earlier this year, and were also published in *Nature*. They were that:

- (i) the first number appeared, or the journal was re-titled, between June 1985 and May 1986 (although journals not covered in last year's review issue were also considered)*;
- (ii) the journal is published at least three times a year;
- (iii) the main language used is English;
- (iv) where possible at least four issues should be made available for review, including the first and the most recent numbers.

Last year's journals review supplement covered publications appearing between June 1984 and May 1985 and the second cut-off date, May 1986, allows for enough issues of a journal to have been published

*See *Nature* 323, 359–379 (1986). For previous journals review supplements see *Nature* 317, 293–308 (1985); 311, 309–330 (1984); 305, 477–497 (1983); 299, 491–514 (1982); and 293, 341–369 (1981).

for a reasonable sample to be available for judgement (many are quarterlies). A spread of four different issues is taken as the usual minimum on which reviewers' comments can be based.

It proved difficult to find reviewers for some, doubtless worthy journals, while other titles were considered to be of marginal interest to *Nature's* audience.

The brief given to reviewers was to limit themselves to comment on the publications sent to them, and to avoid discussion of general questions of periodical publishing. Opinions expressed in the reviews are based on a sample, and apply to mid-1987 at the latest. As in previous years, the preponderance of journals in the biological sciences reflects the bias of material submitted for review.

Details of editors and frequency of publication, and the subscription rates appearing at the top of each review, are given in most instances for 1988. This information is not complete in all cases, and readers interested in subscribing to a particular journal should check the rates with the publisher concerned. □

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• Among other titles submitted: *Alternative Medicine* (VNU); *Applied Agricultural Research* (Springer-Verlag); *Applied Clay Science* (Elsevier); *Dysphagia: An International Multi-disciplinary Journal Devoted to Swallowing and Its Disorders* (Springer-Verlag); *International Journal of Cardiac Imaging* (Martinus Nijhoff); *International Journal of Pancreatology* (Elsevier); *Pediatric Neuroscience* (Karger); *Reactivity of Solids* (Elsevier); *Surveys in Geophysics*, formerly *Geophysical Surveys* (Reidel).