

SLA Presentation

- It's a pleasure to be here once again. Thank you Kathy for the opportunity to present RSC's developments to this august group.
- **Improvements in service**
 - Our primary commitment remains the same: to disseminate work of the highest quality in the shortest possible time.
 - We have improved even further our times to publication: for example, for OBC communications times to publication average 6.1 weeks for web publication and 10.4 weeks from receipt to print. This beats all rival organic chemistry publications for speed.
 - Most RSC journals saw significant increases in their Impact Factors in the last published round.
 - Reference linking via CrossRef and to free CAS Abstracts via ChemPort are fully functional for all journals.
 - Submissions are increasing 8% a year overall. We are working extra hard to be more selective and provide only work of the highest quality. This gives us more work for not necessarily more product, but we feel that that is what the community wants. Our rejection rates are the highest they have ever been and are as high as 75% on some journals.
 - Some journals have new sections, eg The Analyst and Chemical Communications.
 - Owing to sustained growth, several of our journals are increasing their frequency next year: JMC to 24 issues; CSR to 9 issues; JEM to 12 issues; GC to 12 issues; LOC to 6 issues.
- **Improvements in delivery**
 - In response to your comments, we are offering more flexible package options for 2004.
 - We are introducing a Bio Pkg that should be of interest to departments that interface with chemistry, and
 - We are introducing an expanded Package A that includes the annual access fee to our backfile (more of which shortly).
 - We are improving the web delivery of our products

- You should have experienced very much faster download from our website since the second week in June.
 - We are working on a further upgrade of our website to provide an enhanced service.
 - There will be multiple gateways for the site:
 - Services & activities, eg Journals
 - Subject, eg chemical biology
 - Product, eg chemcomm
 - People, eg librarian
- **Website: Librarian entry**
 - Entering as a librarian you might expect to find links such as these, but we would appreciate feedback from you as to the services you would like to see linked from such a gateway.
- **Pricing for 2004**
 - Along with most other publishers, we are supporting our RoweCom customers through this year.
 - I have already mentioned the strong growth in article submissions of 8% a year
 - And our continuing commitment to product development and improvements in delivery.
 - We are also affected by the US\$ - sterling exchange rate. You are all no doubt aware that the dollar is currently 15% weaker against the pound sterling than it was last year. We have committed over recent years to removing dollar mark-up, which we have achieved. However, the latest fluctuation has made many of our dollar prices cheaper than our sterling prices. We need for 2004 to absorb this loss on dollar revenue in our general pricing.
 - I'd just like to remind you of our recent US\$ pricing history:

- **Recent pricing history**

We will be announcing our prices for 2004 in the next week or two, but it is unlikely we can be as kind as we have been in the recent past.

Our journals will remain low cost and high value.

Now, onto our latest project, **Retrodigitisation**

- **Retrodigitisation update**
 - From slide
- **Process**
 - XML headers for all articles
 - Headers plus abstracts in XML from 1965 onwards
 - Reference links from 1990 onwards
- **Online presentation**
 - From slide
- **Digitisation challenges**
 - Loose-leaf pages
 - Small fonts – 5 pt
- **Still to be decided**
 - Chem Soc abstracts 1878 – 1925, even-numbered volumes
 - Mixed annual indexes (include abstracts and journal articles)
 - 6 sections:
 - Gen & Phys Chem
 - Inorg Chem
 - Mineralogical Chem
 - Physiological Chem
 - Vegetable Physiology & Agriculture
 - Analytical Chem
 - Separate PDF file for each section
 - Note: we will not be digitising AA beyond its 20+ year current backfile.
- **Pricing**
 - Several options, based on feedback from you.
 - From slide.
- **Pricing –continued**
 - Package A-Plus
 - Register for e-alerts