



The Year 1993 in Review: Part II

This editorial is a continuation of the editorial in the February issue and presents some additional facts and figures about Volume 32 and activities during 1993.

Figure 1 shows the number of technical pages published in *Optical Engineering* each year since 1978.

Table 1 shows the outcome of papers received during 1991 and 1992. There are some small differences between the various percentages but they are probably not significant. The 1991 numbers are for papers received by my office from 1 December 1990 through 31 December 1991. The papers indicated as "closed" are papers that have been returned to the authors for significant revisions. If, after a reasonable amount of time, plus several reminders, I do not hear from the authors, then the file is closed. If the authors choose to resubmit after that action, the papers are treated as new submission—this occurs in very few instances.

Activity in 1993

The year 1993 was, again, a very busy year for the editorial offices in Rochester and Bellingham, with a record number of papers submitted (401), and hence record levels of activity in all the processes that we go through. Table 2 shows some of the important activities that we track; the percentage changes since 1992 are included. Of course, some of these activities relate to papers that were received in 1992 but were going through the revision process in 1993. The third entry "written reviews received" relates to the actual written reviews received, and does not include those responses taken over the phone, or those that simply state that the paper is acceptable in its present form, or the re-reviews of revised manuscripts when the reviewer states that the authors have made the appropriate revisions.

Figure 2 is a plot of the cumulative number of papers received by month for each of the last five years. These papers are the regularly submitted papers and the numbers do not include those submitted for special sections.

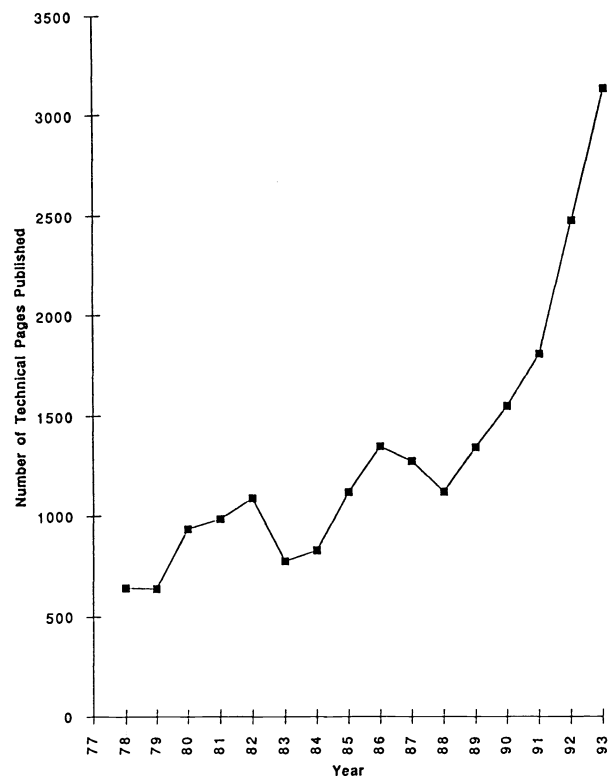


Fig. 1 Number of technical pages published per year from 1978 through 1993.

Table 1 Outcome of papers received in 1991 and 1992.

	1991	1992
% accepted	64.0	69.8
% rejected	26.4	21.5
% closed	7.0	5.8
% withdrawn	1.3	2.6
% transferred	1.3	0.3

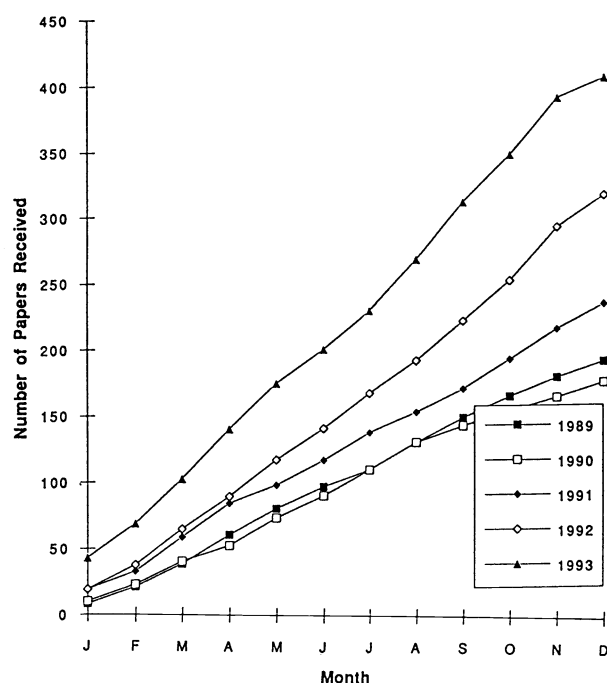


Fig. 2 Number of papers received per month from 1989 to 1993 (excluding special section papers).

Status of Papers Received During 1993

The 401 papers received during 1993 are in various stages of the editorial process. Table 3 summarizes the state of all these papers as of the end of December 1993.

Issues

As we move forward with Volume 33 and beyond, we need to be concerned about the timely flow of papers, particularly the time from final acceptance to publication. The minimum time for that step is really five months to allow for galley proofs to be sent out and returned from around the world. Readers will probably be aware that the journal is sent to the printer from headquarters three weeks before it is mailed. We will try our best to get as close to that five-month minimum as possible but it will take some work and careful scheduling.

Packaging of the Journal

You may have noticed that, starting with last month's issue, we have been shrinkwrapping the U.S. copies of the journal. (The overseas copies have always been mailed in envelopes.)

Table 2 Activity during 1993.

Regular papers received	401	+ 28.3%
Reviewers solicited	1047	+ 30.7%
Written reviews received	727	+ 56.3%
Revised manuscripts received	257	+ 60.6%
Accepted	261	+ 35.9%
Rejected	100	+ 96.7%
Withdrawn	7	-
Closed	53	+211.8%
Returned to author(s) for revision	307	+ 66.8%
Papers received and accepted for special sections	198	+ 18.6%
Papers for Communications Section	13	-

Table 3 Status of papers received during 1993 as of December 31.

Published	9
In press	147
Rejected	66
In review	76
In revision	71
Withdrawn	3
Closed	25
Transferred	4
Total	401

As its size has grown, problems with the automatic sorting machines used by the U.S. Postal Service were experienced. As a result, some members were receiving "mangled" copies of the journal.

In our continuing efforts to keep the quality of *Optical Engineering* high as it grows in size, we will be shrinkwrapping the journal so that it arrives in your mailbox in good shape. We hope this will alleviate the problems some of you have been experiencing in the last few months and that you will continue to receive copies of the journal that you will be proud to display on your bookshelves.

Editor's Anecdote

I often track down reviewers by telephone. On one occasion recently I was speaking to a distinguished colleague about his delinquency. He was not sure where the paper was and said "we have a system here that is designed to lose any manuscript." Our paper was no exception!

Brian J. Thompson
Editor

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