Information for Contributors to Science

To assure publication of papers with a minimum of delay and to provide readers with subject matter of a wider range and more general interest than heretofore, the AAAS Editorial Board reaffirms the following policies:

1. Lead articles. Lead articles varying in length from about 1000 to 10,000 words are invited for consideration. These may be general articles or reviews of recent advances in some field. Authors should keep in mind the broad audience of Science and should employ reasonably nontechnical language that will be intelligible to most readers.

2. Technical papers. Only under exceptional circumstances, such as suitability for conversion to a lead article will any technical paper of more than four double-spaced typed pages (about 1200 words) be accepted for publication. This includes space occupied by figures, tables, and references. Most papers should be limited to about 900 words. However, statements of conclusions without supporting data will not be acceptable. Such data should be included to the extent necessary, particularly in the form of concise tables. In general it is advisable to submit more than one or two figures.

Every effort will be made to publish technical papers within ten weeks of receipt. This will require the cooperation of authors, who should follow these suggestions: (a) give special attention to concise expressions; (b) supply clear figures that unquestionably are suitable for reproduction; (c) see that manuscripts are submitted in the form used by Science, especially with regard to references, figure legends, table headings, and abbreviations; (d) return galley proof promptly.

3. Communications. Communications varying in length from several sentences to approximately 600 words will usually be given priority for publication. These may be reports of significant research that for some reason cannot be presented as technical papers, or they may be brief comments of the “Letter to the Editor” type. For the former, supporting data should be included or else a comprehensive account of the work should accompany the communication for the guidance of the referees.

All manuscripts should be typed with double spacing and submitted in duplicate so as to expedite reviewing by referees and editorial processing. In the event that papers are returned to authors for revision, one copy will be retained in the editorial office pending final disposition.