

# Zentralblatt für Mathematik und ihre Grenzgebiete

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Tired of being always behind the times, the editors recently made two important policy decisions. First, they chose a photographic reproduction process which, though not as elegant as conventional printing, allows much faster production. Second, and more revolutionary, they are now inviting authors to send abstracts of their work as soon as it has been accepted for publication. This policy has the moral support of the International Union (IMU) and was announced at a meeting on communication problems in mathematics sponsored by the American Mathematical Society. It means that the abstract can appear about the same time as the original, and sometimes even before. Although introduced only last year this policy has enjoyed considerable support.

A further outcome of these changes has been a much faster production tempo. We published 19 volumes (38 issues) excl. index volumes in 1969. This is not a record we hope to break — indeed, we hope to bring out fewer in the next years. It is a sign that we are reducing the backlog. Of the 32,000 titles in the 1969 volumes, no fewer than 5,400 relate to work published in 1969 (or to be published later), i.e. some 25% of all papers published in 1969 have been abstracted in the "Zentralblatt" in 1969.

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