

## ◆ *Style Manuals: Update on the New Editions*

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### **CSE Scientific Style and Format (SSF)**

No, SSF7 is not quite ready, but the Style Manual Subcommittee is making headway, the printing contract has been signed, and the Publications Committee is considering options for eventual electronic publication.

In response to user feedback, SSF7 will reinstate information on ethics and editorial policy. In the section on special scientific conventions, the new edition will summarize the genetic nomenclature rules for all organisms for which such rules have been developed. Apparently, this will be the first time all these rules will have been collected in one place. Taxonomy and nomenclature recommendations have been collected into a single chapter, and the updated content reflects recent revisions of the nomenclature codes for animals, plants, and viruses. The chapter on the earth has been expanded to cover

water and air, as well as the more conventional earth sciences.

SSF7 will offer a third option for references, which combines the advantages of both the name-year and the citation-sequence systems: listing references alphabetically in the reference list and giving them sequential numbers for use in citations in text. Issue numbers will be required for journal references, to help with retrieval, and more information about citing electronic sources will be included. For electronic citations, the URL and the date of access will be required. Also, the URL within a Web site, not just the home-page URL, will be required.

### **American Medical Association Manual of Style**

The 10th edition of the *American Medical Association Manual of Style* should be available in late 2005.

“The process of revising a style manual is long, slow, frustrating, and rewarding”, said Cheryl Iverson, chair of the AMA style manual committee.

Some highlights of the 10th edition are the following:

- An expanded emphasis on electronics throughout, with information on online submission and peer review, more online resources, and many more examples of electronic references.
- Three new subsections on nomenclature: molecular medicine, radiology, and ophthalmology.
- A new chapter on indexing and searching.
- New guidelines in many fields affecting ethical and legal considerations (such as authorship and contributorship, tighter conflict-of-interest statements, access to data, interaction with the mass media, and case law on libel) and new examples, particularly on duplicate publication and editorial freedom.
- A few policy changes, such as inclusion

of the issue number in journal reference citations, a return to the preference for conventional metric units over SI units, and spelling out of names of states in running text.

Oxford University Press, the publisher of the 10th edition, will establish—first—a Web presence for the book (a Web site with FAQs, ordering information, and “What’s New?”) and is considering an online version as well as a workbook.

### **The Chicago Manual of Style**

The 15th edition of *The Chicago Manual of Style* came out in 2003, and 100,000 copies have already been sold.

According to Anita Samen, of the *Chicago Manual of Style* task force, the manual started out as a pamphlet in 1891. It first appeared in book form in 1906 and cost \$0.50. Work on the 15th edition began in 1993, when the 14th edition was published (as soon as a new edition comes out, Chicago begins thinking about the next edition).

New to the latest edition is a chapter on grammar and usage, which was written as a work for hire by Bryan Garner, who also wrote *Garner’s Modern American English*. The mathematics chapter was completely revised because it was outdated. The book was thoroughly redesigned, and useful descriptive phrases were added after each section number to make navigation easier for the reader.

Some hot issues that arose during the revision process included how to document electronic sources properly (for example, Is the complete URL necessary? Should access dates be included?), how to style the terms “Web site” and “Internet”, and what form the electronic version of the manual would take. A CD-ROM version of the manual will be available in December 2004. 🗨️