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The Internet and the Velocity of Scholarly Journal Publishing

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Table #1: Journals Examined

	Prestige[1]	**Publication Schedule**	**Available Electronically?**[2]	**Allow Electronic Submissions?**[3]
Journal of Biological Chemistry	Impact Factor: 27th Total Citations: 1st "Biochemistry & Molecular Biology," 310 journals	1970: Biweekly 2000: Weekly	Yes	Yes—"Required"
Journal of Economic Theory	Impact Factor: 63rd Total Citations: 10th "Economics," 166 journals	1970: Tri-monthly 2000: Monthly	Yes	No
Journal of the American Chemical Society	Impact Factor: 7th Total Citations: 1st "Chemistry, Multidisciplinary," 118 journals	1970: Biweekly 2000: Weekly	Yes	Yes— "Encouraged"
Physical Review D	Impact Factor: 5th Total Citations: 1st "Physics, Particles & Fields," 19 journals	1970: Biweekly 2000: Biweekly	Yes	Yes—"Preferred"
Psychological Research	Impact Factor: 24th Total Citations: 35th "Psychology, Experimental," 64 journals	1980: Tri-monthly 2000: Tri-monthly	No	No
Strategic Management Journal	Impact Factor: 5th Total Citations: 3rd "Management," 60 journals	1980: Tri-monthly 2000: Monthly	Yes	No

[1] Data obtained from ISI Journal Citation Reports, 2000 Edition. Philadelphia, PA: Institute for Scientific Information. Retrieved February 17, 2002 (http://jcrweb.com).
[2] Indicates availability as an electronic full-text journal.
[3] Indicates allowance of manuscript submissions via e-mail or web-based at ***all*** stages of review process, as indicated by the journals' websites.

Table #2: The Speed of Manuscript Transmission, In days

	Traditional Mail	Electronic Mail
1st Round of Review		
Author → [1] Editor	7	1
Editor → Reviewer(s)	7	1
Reviewer(s) → Editor	7	1
Editor → Author	7	1
TOTAL DAYS	**28**	**4**
Revisions/MS Accepted		
Author → Editor	7	1
TOTAL DAYS	PRIOR + 7 = **35**	PRIOR + 1 = **5**
OR 2nd Round of Review		
Editor → Reviewer(s)	7	1
Reviewer(s) → Editor	7	1
TOTAL DAYS	PRIOR + 14 = **49**	PRIOR + 2 = **7**
Revisions/MS Accepted		
Editor → Author	7	1
Author → Editor	7	1
TOTAL DAYS	PRIOR + 14 = **63**	PRIOR + 2 = **9**
	POTENTIAL SAVINGS by ELECTRONIC MAIL TRANSMISSION: (35 – 5) [2] to (63 – 9) [3] = **30 to 54 days**	

[1] An "→" indicates transmission of the manuscript.
[2] Manuscript is accepted after first round of review/revisions.
[3] Manuscript is accepted after second round of review/revisions.

Table #3: Comparison of 1970/1980 to 2000 Publication Delays, In days[1]

	1970/1980	2000	Change
Journal of Biological Chemistry	192	122	**DECREASED 70 days**
Journal of Economic Theory	281	765	**INCREASED 484 days**
Journal of the American Chemical Society	226	179	**DECREASED 47 days**
Physical Review D	174	226	**INCREASED 52 days**
Psychological Research	296	516	**INCREASED 220 days**
Strategic Management Journal	246	895	**INCREASED 649 days**

[1] Publication delay data contained in the remaining tables reflects the averages for the separate years.

Table #4: Comparison of 1970 and 2000 Standard to 2000 "Fast Track" Publication Delays, In days

	1970	2000	"Fast Track"	Change	
Journal of Biological Chemistry	192	122	"Accelerated Publications" 68	From 2000: **DECREASED 54 days**	From 1970: **DECREASED 124 days**
Journal of the American Chemical Society	226	179	"As Soon As Publishable" 151	From 2000: **DECREASED 28 days**	From 1970: **DECREASED 75 days**
Physical Review D	174	226	"Rapid Communications" 144	From 2000: **DECREASED 82 days**	From 1970: **DECREASED 30 days**

Table #5: Comparisons of the Journal of Biological Chemistry's Standard to "Papers In Press" Publication Delays for 2000, In days

Standard	"Papers in Press"	Change
172	82	**DECREASED 90 days**

Table #6: Average Number of Articles, Page Volume, and Article Length

	1970/1980					2000				
	Pages[1]	Words per Page[2]	Articles	Avg. Article Length	Pub. Schedule	Pages	Words per Page	Articles:	Avg. Art. Length:	Pub. Schedule
Journal of Biological Chemistry	6303	1080	857	7	Biweekly	28127	1080	5481	5	Weekly
Journal of Economic Theory	476	378	30	16	Tri-monthly	1701	387	72	24	Monthly
Journal of the American Chemical Society	6393	1120	970	7	Biweekly	10114	1170	1196	8	Weekly
Physical Review D	6243	805	757	8	Biweekly	15787	840	822	19	Biweekly
Psychological Research	414	495	30	14	Tri-monthly	469	912	38	12	Tri-monthly
Strategic Management Journal	376	528	25	15	Tri-monthly	1214	700	68	18	Monthly

[1] Reflects average number of pages for entire year as generated from the samples for the Journal of Biological Chemistry and the Journal of the American Chemical Society.
[2] Reflects approximations of words per page.

Table #7: Natural versus Social Sciences: Comparisons of Publication Delays

	1970/1980	2000
Natural Sciences		
Journal of Biological Chemistry	192	122
Journal of the American Chemical Society	226	179
Physical Review D	174	226
AVERAGE:	**170**	**175**
Social Sciences		
Journal of Economic Theory	281	765
Psychological Research	296	516
Strategic Management Journal	246	895
AVERAGE:	**274**	**725**