

### 1994 in Review: Part II

As promised, here is the continuation of the review of Volume 33 and the activities of the editorial office during 1994.

Figure 1 shows the number of technical pages published per year since 1977. There is another significant increase this last year, as reported in Table 1 of the February editorial. However, we do not project this rate of increase to continue for 1995, but rather expect a flattening of the curve.

Figure 2 provides a view of the total number of papers published per year since 1972 and also shows the number of regularly contributed papers and those contributed to the special sections. Figure 3 shows the percentage of special papers published per year since 1977.

Table 1 contains the information on the outcome of papers received for the three years 1991 through 1993. There is a drop in the percentage of papers accepted and an increase in the number of papers rejected over 1992. The entry "closed" is those papers that have been returned to the authors for revision and are not returned. After a reasonable period of time, and several letters to the authors, I close the file. If the paper is later resubmitted it is treated as a new submission and the review process is started again. Very few of these papers are, in fact, resubmitted.

### Editorial Activity in 1994

The level of activity in the editorial office in Rochester, and in Bellingham, again increased significantly over the previous year—but the rate of increase did slow up. A record number of papers were submitted to the editor (+13.5%) and a record number of papers for the special sections were also accepted. Table 2 gives a list of the major activities of my office and the change since 1993. I remind the reader that these papers were the ones active during the year, some of which were, of course, submitted during 1993. More than 60% of our colleagues who are asked to review a paper do so; others pass them directly to a coworker. The 749 written reviews received do not include oral reviews received over the phone, or those reviews that state "this paper is fine as is—publish." The latter is, of course, a very acceptable review. Re-reviews of revised papers may consist of a single statement that the authors "have made the necessary corrections and the paper is now ready to be published."

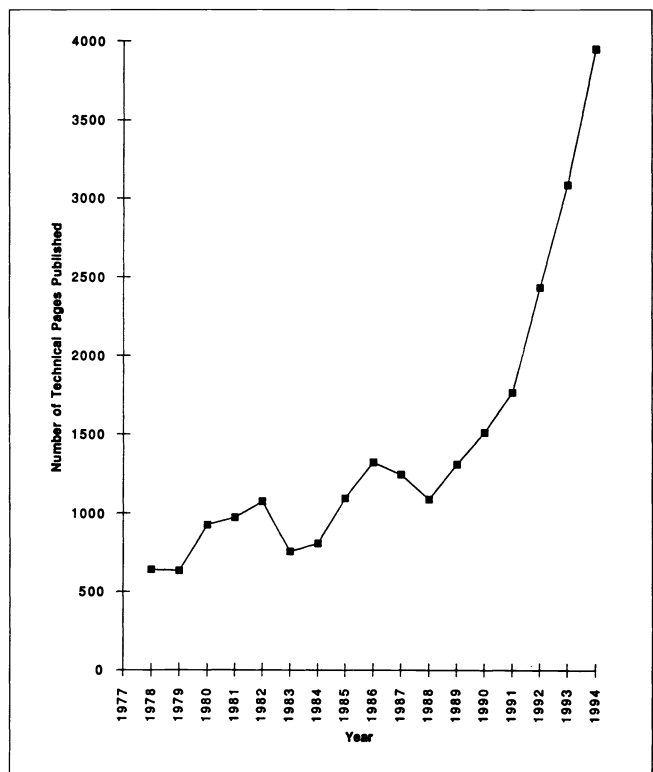


Fig. 1 Number of technical pages published per year since 1977.

Table 1 Outcome of papers received from 1991 to 1993.

	1991	1992	1993
% accepted	64.0	69.8	59.4
% rejected	26.4	21.5	24.1
% closed	7.0	5.8	12.3
% withdrawn	1.3	2.6	1.7
% transferred	1.3	0.3	2.5

Figure 4 is a plot of the cumulative number of papers received by month for each of the last six years. These papers are regularly submitted papers, and the numbers do not include those papers submitted for special sections.

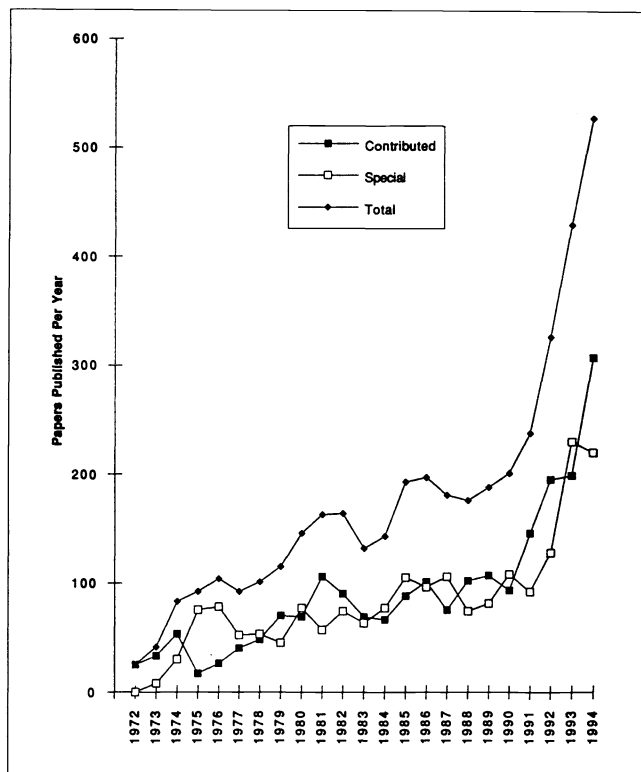


Fig. 2 Total number of papers published per year since 1972.

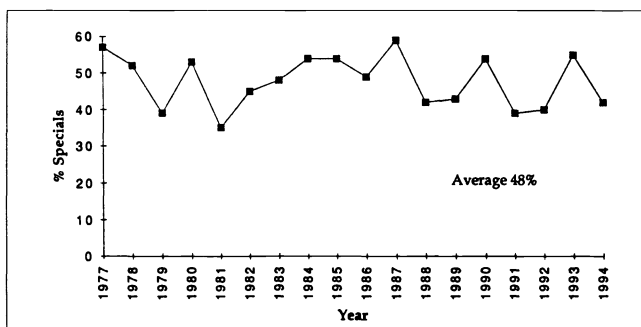


Fig. 3 Percent of special papers published per year.

Table 2 Activity during 1994.

Regular papers received	455	+ 13.5%
Reviewers solicited	1219	+ 16.4%
Written review received	749	+ 3.0%
Revised manuscripts received	269	+ 3.0%
Accepted	268	+ 2.7%
Rejected	143	+ 43%
Withdrawn	15	+ 114%
Closed	56	+ 5.7%
Returned to author(s) for revision	296	- 3.6%
Papers received and accepted for special sections	252	+ 27.3%
Papers for Communications section	18	+ 27.8%

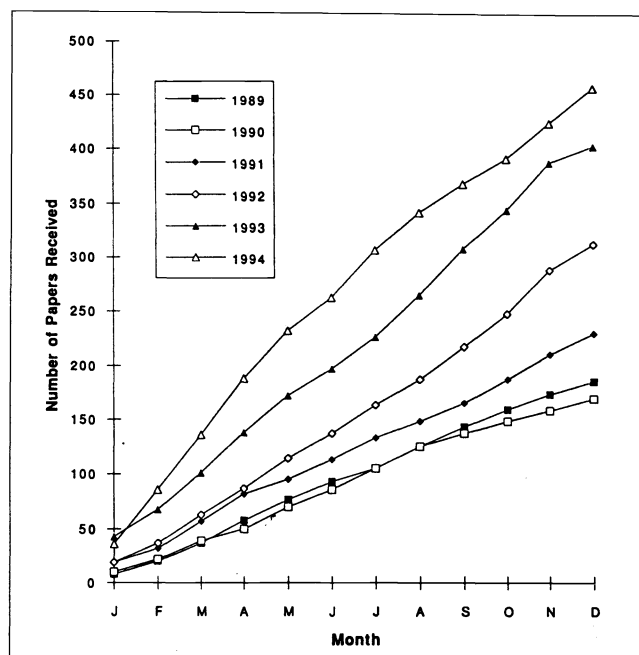


Fig. 4 Number of papers received by month from 1989 to 1994 (excluding specials).

Table 3 Status of papers received during 1994 as of December 31, 1994.

Published	46
In press	137
Rejected	106
In review	77
In revision	51
Withdrawn	13
Closed	20
Transferred	5
	<hr/> 455

### Status of Papers Received During 1994

Table 3 provides a listing of the status of the 455 papers received during the year. Forty percent have already been accepted and have been published or are in press; 30% have been rejected, closed, or withdrawn; and 28% are in review or with the authors for revision.

So we are indeed all set for another strong year for *Optical Engineering* during 1995. As you read this we will already have finished the first quarter (even though I am writing this on New Year's Eve—do not be concerned, it is only 4:00 p.m.!).

### Editor's Anecdote

One of the issues that arises from having the editorial office at home is that you are always supposed to be there for delivery. The mail carrier arrived on Christmas morning with a special delivery. A late gift? No, just an eager author who wanted to make sure I got the manuscript! I put it under the tree to open on Boxing Day! (I leave it as a task for the non-English reader to figure out what Boxing Day is . . . and when.)

**Brian J. Thompson**  
Editor

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