2001 Annual Report of the Publications Committee

2000-2001 Publications Committee: Judy Jernstedt, Chair
Pam Diggle
Darleen Demason
Joe Leverich
Jonathan Wendel
Karl Niklas, ex officio
Marsh Sundberg, ex officio
Kim Hiser, ex officio

Two topics occupied the Publications Committee this year: (1) monitoring progress on the multi-year process of reducing the backlog of accepted ready-for-press manuscripts for the *AJB*, and (2) soliciting, screening and ranking bids for a new contract to print *The American Journal of Botany*.

1. **Backlog Reduction**

   According to figures provided by *AJB* Editor-in-Chief, Karl J. Niklas, the backlog of accepted manuscripts waiting to be printed has been reduced by ~35% since the adoption of the larger issue-size. However, the number of new submissions has increased compared to the past two years. The net result is that unless more pages are published per volume, the Editorial Office will find it very difficult to reduce the backlog substantially and quickly.

   **Recommendation:** To continue progress in reducing the backlog and to speed up the process, we recommend that the larger issues approved and funded in 2000 be continued through 2002 (Volume 89). Furthermore, we recommend that two additional signatures per issue (2 signatures/issue x 16 pages/signature x 12 issues/year) be funded for 2002 (Volume 89).

2. **Printing Contract for The American Journal of Botany**

   A request for bids for the printing contract for *AJB* was sent out to five firms on May 1, 2001. The firms solicited were AGS [Advanced Graphics Systems], Allen Press, Cadmus, Hopkins Printing, IPC Communication Services, and Sheridan Press. Completed bid packages were received by June 1, 2001, and varied greatly in terms of completeness and elaborateness. Copies of the relevant portions of all bids were distributed to the Publications Committee for review and comment. The major criteria for selecting a printer for *AJB* are quality, comprehensiveness, timeliness, reliability, and competitive pricing. As of August 2, 2001, the choice has been narrowed to two finalists, and a recommendation from the Publications Committee to the Executive Committee is expected within a week.

Respectfully submitted,

Judy Jernstedt, *Chair*
*Publications Committee*