



The Editor replies:

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a conventional frame. I suggest that the publication of abstracts is sufficient and would, in addition, allow printing of many more papers per issue. A one-page, comprehensive abstract, adequately conveys all necessary contents of the papers in the current issue. Where illustrations or lists are needed, these can be reduced, condensed, etc. and still be confined to not more than a full page.

Another comment relates to the membership roster. This is one of the most frustrating and unwieldy formats I have ever seen. In order to find Dr. N. Marchette, whom I had lost track of, I was forced to wade through all the states and countries from page 62 to 71 until I discovered him under 'Malaysia'. Why can't we have a straightforward and alphabetical listing as in 'American Society of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene' and in most other societies? This is simple, quick, and painless.

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The Editor replies:

Thank you for your refreshingly frank letter. We have, of course, previously considered both points that you raised, and the format of both scientific articles and the membership roster was deliberately selected.

Your comments in regard to printing abstracts instead of full articles

in the BULLETIN would apply to most scientific journals today, especially since science publications are proliferating so rapidly. And that may come. But the BULLETIN has a small, selective audience as well as being representative of a very small segment of the total scientific community, and the number of articles we receive, much less publish, is small indeed. Thus, we feel that at the moment there is room for the full treatment. Most important, though, is the fact that many people want the detail. For people who don't want the detail, we provide an abstract at the beginning of the articles concerned with actual research.

The geographic listing of members was chosen for several reasons, principally because it would serve to acquaint individuals with other WDA members in their local area and to emphasize the diversified spread of WDA members around the world. We felt that the number of members seeking a lost member's address would be small, and the minor inconvenience, such as you experienced, in finding a "lost" member did not outweigh the other method of listing. We may, however, consider the alphabetical listing next time.

Dr. Kartman replies:

“. . . For publication, I would want to clarify the idea of using abstracts for publication of papers. My thought is that very few readers of a paper (in any technical journal) really are vitally concerned. I wonder whether it is true, as you say, that "many people want the detail." Those really concerned are workers doing related or similar research. Thus most readers should be satisfied by a good abstract. Those more concerned could write to the author for details . . ."