

Day, R.A.: **How to Write & Publish a Scientific Paper**. 5<sup>th</sup> Ed. - Oryx Press, Phoenix 1998. ISBN 1-57356-164-9. 275 pp.

The new edition of this successful publication of the well-known professor of English and scientific writing gives me an opportunity to compare it with the first edition published 19 years ago (for review see *Photosynthetica* **14**: 457-458, 1980). The increase in number of pages from 160 to 275 does not exactly correspond to the increase in content because the 5<sup>th</sup> edition is printed in larger characters with more space between lines than the first one. Nevertheless, the number of chapters increased from 26 to 35, and the number of appendices from 6 to 7.

New chapters are 1 (What is Scientific Writing?), 2 (Origins of Scientific Writing), 20 (Electronic Publishing Formats: CD-ROM and Distributed Printing), 21 (The Internet and the World Wide Web), 22 (The Electronic Journal), 23 (E-mail and Newsgroups), 27 (How to Write a Book Review), 29 (How to Present a Paper Orally), and 30 (How to Prepare a Poster). The chapters 3 and 4 of the first edition merged into chapter 5 of the 5<sup>th</sup> Ed., the former chapter 13 is split into chapters 14 (on graphs) and 15 (on photographs). The new appendix 7 is on sample submission requirements for an electronic journal.

Already the list of structure changes shows how the publication forms and requirements changed during the past two decades. Use of personal computers for writing, editing, and preparing illustrations, the launching of Internet and the WWW, online journals, electronic mail, increased necessity to lecture and present posters, *etc.*, have basically changed the plain of scientific communication. All this is reflected in the 5<sup>th</sup> Ed. that, happily enough, remained a cookbook spiced with many examples and jokes.

The chapters are still brief and clear, but almost all mottoes and many examples were replaced by new, often better ones. Most new information deals with modern, rapidly developing tools of communication and with present requirements for a successful scientist. New information deals with both hardware and software that enable electronic creation of tables, graphs, drawings, *photographs*, *citations*, *references*, *etc.* Because older scientists are not always informed on these possibilities and uses, the book is a valuable information source for everybody working in natural sciences. I enjoyed also the Glossary of Technical Terms that contains brief definitions. I do not like the appendix 2 on abbreviations which may be used in table headings, not only because these may not be clear to inexperienced reader, but also because among them are old-fashioned terms such as molecular weight.

But generally, this is one of the best books on writing and publishing in science: buy it!

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