

Editorial

With appropriate editorial policy, a journal can facilitate the development and dissemination of important new ideas and improve the quality of support for old ideas. These will be the goals of *AL&B*'s editorial policy. Its success will depend upon the efforts and imagination of the authors, good judgment of the editors and ad hoc reviewers, and the reactions of readers.

One of the major strengths of *AL&B* has been its breadth of coverage. It will continue to publish articles on any topic of animal psychology, such as sensation, perception, concept formation, conditioning, reinforcement, punishment, working memory, reference memory, attention, behavioral development, social influence and interaction, response processes, and decision processes. The journal will continue to publish articles dealing with different species and comparisons among them. Studies involving human subjects may be published if they deal with principles of animal learning and behavior that do not apply exclusively to humans. Results may be described without explanation, or they may be explained with concepts from biology, psychology, mathematics, or other fields.

Although most articles will continue to be reports of original research, the journal will publish other types of articles, such as reviews of theoretical ideas and critical comments about a single article or a group of articles. Empirical articles may report the results of a single study or a series of related studies. If the need arises, an issue may be devoted to a specific topic.

A journal serves many functions—one of them is to provide a means for authors to communicate to readers. To do so successfully, authors should write in a clear and orderly manner, and convey an understanding of the importance of the problem being studied. Readers are attracted by well-written articles. Information about the format for manuscripts is on the inside of the front cover.

There is one organizational change: In the past, the editor has assigned many manuscripts to one of a small group of associate editors for action. Now there is a larger group of consulting editors to advise the editor. (The names of the consulting editors are listed on the masthead.) Manuscripts submitted to the journal normally will be reviewed by one member of the board of consulting editors and by an ad hoc reviewer selected from a list of potential reviewers. An individual who is willing to serve as an ad hoc reviewer for appropriate manuscripts is encouraged to send me his or her name, address, and areas of reviewing competence. The names of all individuals who reviewed articles for *AL&B* will be listed each year.

In recent years, there have been important developments in the study of animal cognition, associative learning, behavioral ecology, and behavioral neuroscience. *AL&B* has been publishing significant research on these topics and it will continue to do so. The journal will also remain open to other directions in the study of animal learning and behavior.

Russell M. Church
Editor