

Editorial

The present editorial team has been receiving manuscripts for almost two years, and this is time enough to allow me to offer some comments on conclusions that we have begun to form over that time.

The first is that the field appears to be in good heart. We have received a steady stream of mostly excellent submissions. Our acceptance rate stands at a fairly stable 50%. Some journals have a much lower rate and wear their figure as a badge of pride; but I am not so sure. That we reject so few (relatively) seems to me to reflect the generally high quality of the work that is sent to us. We receive very few papers that are wholly inappropriate or that fail to provide the basics of a proper experimental design, appropriate analysis, and coherent presentation. For those that we do reject, the problem is usually that the submission is (in the opinion of the editors and reviewers) premature; and it is usually the case that further work can result in a paper that we are happy to see in the pages of *Learning & Behavior*.

The next point concerns the content of the papers submitted. Our remit is wide; to quote from our Web site:

Learning & Behavior (formerly *Animal Learning & Behavior*) publishes experimental and theoretical contributions and critical reviews concerning fundamental processes of learning and behavior in nonhuman and human animals. Topics covered include sensation, perception, conditioning, learning, attention, memory, motivation, emotion, development, social behavior, and comparative investigations.

In fact, the majority of the submissions continue to deal with traditional experimental studies of conditioning, learning, and motivation in nonhuman animals. To the extent that a 2-year period allows one to detect a reliable trend, the only obvious change has been an increase in submissions of studies of learning in human animals (contingency judgment, causal reasoning, and so on). This trend is very welcome; it may be a consequence of the decision to remove the redundant (and, to any biologist, inappropriate) *Animal* from our title. It would be a pity, however, if this change were to act as a deterrent for those working in other areas. In particular, we would encourage submissions from scientists working in comparative psychology/animal behavior, broadly defined (from complex cognition in primates to habituation in single-celled organisms; from foraging in bees to social behavior in baboons). We believe that all these topics are worthy of our attention, and that principles discovered in one species are likely to be relevant to an understanding of behavior observed in others. We think that *Learning & Behavior* should provide a forum in which these matters can be aired.

Finally, contributors to the journal may have noted that the installation of the present editorial team has coincided with the change to a Web-based system for submission. This change has had a range of very positive consequences—for the author, the amount of paper to be handled has been much reduced; for the editors and our reviewers, processing of the paper after submission has been substantially streamlined. There have been some teething problems of course (and we are working to eliminate these). We are determined that the benefits of this technology should not be won at the expense of a loss of traditional virtues, in particular, those involved in the personal interaction between editor and author, and editor and reviewer. Publication in a Psychonomic Society journal is a collaborative enterprise that depends on goodwill among all concerned and we will do our best to maintain this.

—Geoffrey Hall
Editor