Reference and Book List

The Reference section of the Notices is intended to provide the reader with frequently sought information in an easily accessible manner. New information is printed as it becomes available and is referenced after the first printing. As soon as information is updated or otherwise changed, it will be noted in this section.

Contacting the Notices
The preferred method for contacting the Notices is electronic mail. The editor is the person to whom to send articles and letters for consideration. Articles include feature articles, memorial articles, communications, opinion pieces, and book reviews. The editor is also the person to whom to send news of unusual interest about other people's mathematics research.

The managing editor is the person to whom to send items for "Mathematics People", "Mathematics Opportunities", "For Your Information", "Reference and Book List", and "Mathematics Calendar". Requests for permissions, as well as all other inquiries, go to the managing editor.

The electronic-mail addresses are notices@math.wustl.edu in the case of the editor and notices@ams.org in the case of the managing editor. The fax numbers are 314-935-3842 for the editor and 401-331-3842 for the managing editor. Postal addresses may be found in the masthead.

Information for Notices Authors
The Notices welcomes unsolicited articles for consideration for publication, as well as proposals for such articles. The following provides general guidelines for writing Notices articles and preparing them for submission. Contact information for Notices editors and staff may be found on the Notices website, http://www.ams.org/notices.

Notices readership. The Notices publishes articles that have broad appeal for a diverse audience with many different types of readers: graduate students, academic mathematicians, industrial mathematicians, researchers in mathematically based fields, and amateur enthusiasts. The paper edition of the Notices is sent to the approximately 33,000 members of the AMS, most of whom are professional mathematicians; about 25,000 of them reside in North America. Because the Notices is accessible for free over the Internet, the number of readers is much larger than the AMS membership. All readers may be assumed to be interested in mathematics research, but they are not all active researchers.

Notices Feature Articles

Topics. The Notices seeks exceptional articles that report on major new developments in mathematics or that describe episodes from mathematics history that have connection to current research in the field. We also welcome articles discussing aspects of the mathematics profession, such as grant programs, the job market, professional opportunities for mathematicians, publishing, electronic communications, etc. We are also interested in articles about mathematics education at all levels. We publish reviews of books, films, plays, software, and mathematical tools.

Reaching the audience. Our goal is to educate the readership about new developments in mathematics and in the mathematics profession, as well as other matters of interest to the working mathematician. Each article is expected to have a large target audience of readers, perhaps 5,000 of the 33,000 subscribers. Authors must therefore write their articles for nonexperts rather than for experts or would-be experts. In particular, the mathematics articles in the Notices are expository. A Notices article should have an introduction that anyone

Where to Find It

A brief index to information that appears in this and previous issues of the Notices.

- AMS Bylaws—January 2012, p. 73
- AMS Email Addresses—February 2012, p. 328
- AMS Ethical Guidelines—June/July 2006, p. 701
- AMS Officers 2010 and 2011 Updates—May 2012, p. 708
- AMS Officers and Committee Members—October 2011, p. 1311
- Conference Board of the Mathematical Sciences—September 2011, p. 1142
- IMU Executive Committee—December 2011, p. 1606
- Information for Notices Authors—June/July 2012, p. 851
- Mathematics Research Institutes Contact Information—August 2011, p. 973
- National Science Board—January 2012, p. 68
- NRC Board on Mathematical Sciences and Their Applications—March 2012, p. 444
- NRC Mathematical Sciences Education Board—April 2011, p. 619
- NSF Mathematical and Physical Sciences Advisory Committee—May 2012, p. 697
- Program Officers for Federal Funding Agencies—October 2011, p. 1306 (DoD, DoE); December 2011, page 1606 (NSF Mathematics Education)
- Program Officers for NSF Division of Mathematical Sciences—November 2011, p. 1472
can understand, and almost all readers should be able to understand the key points of the article.

Structure of articles. Most feature articles, including those on mathematics, are expected to be of long-term value and should be written as such. Ideally each article should put its topic in a context, providing some history and other orientation for the reader, and, as necessary, relating the subject matter to things that readers are likely to understand. In most cases, articles should progress to dealing with contemporary matters, not giving only historical material. The articles that are received the best by readers tend to relate different areas of mathematics to each other.

By design the Notices is partly magazine and partly journal, and authors’ expository styles should take this into account. For example, many readers want to understand the mathematics articles without undue effort and without consulting other sources.

Format and length. Mathematics feature articles in the Notices are normally six to nine pages, sometimes a little longer. Shorter articles are more likely to be read fully than are longer articles. The first page is 400 or 500 words, and subsequent pages are about 800 words. From this one should subtract an allowance for figures, photos, and other illustrations and an appropriate allowance for any displayed equations and bibliography. The Notices is especially interested in the creative use of graphics and color and encourages illustrations. Articles on professional topics are typically 3 to 5 pages, as are book reviews.

Editorial process. The Notices aims to publish exceptionally well-written articles that appeal to a broad audience of mathematicians. Highly technical, specialized articles with a great deal of notation, insider jargon, and a long list of references are not suitable for the Notices. Some articles will be rejected by the editors without any external review. Other articles will be carefully refereed, and then a detailed editorial process will be used to bring the article up to the Notices standard. There will be considerable give and take between the author(s) and the editor, and it may take several drafts to get the article right.

The “WHAT IS...?” Column

Nearly every issue of the Notices carries an installment of the “WHAT IS...?” column. The purpose of the column is to provide brief, nontechnical descriptions of mathematical objects in use in current research. The target audience for the columns is first-year graduate students.

Each “WHAT IS...?” column provides an expository description of a single mathematical object being used in contemporary research. Thus “WHAT IS M-Theory?” would be too broad, but “WHAT IS A Brane?” would be appropriate; ideally “WHAT IS A Brane?” would give a flavor of what M-theory is.

The writing should be non-technical and informal. Narrative description conveying main ideas should be favored over notation-heavy precision.

There is a strict limit of two Notices pages (1,400 words with no picture or 1,200 words with one picture). A list of “Further Reading” should contain no more than three references. Inquiries and comments about the “WHAT IS...?” column are welcome and may be sent to notices-whatis@ams.org.

Upcoming Deadlines

June 30, 2012: Nominations for SASTRA Ramanujan Prize. For more information, email sastraprize@math.ufl.edu, or see the website http://www.math.ufl.edu/sastra-prize/nominations-2011.html.


Reference and Book List


