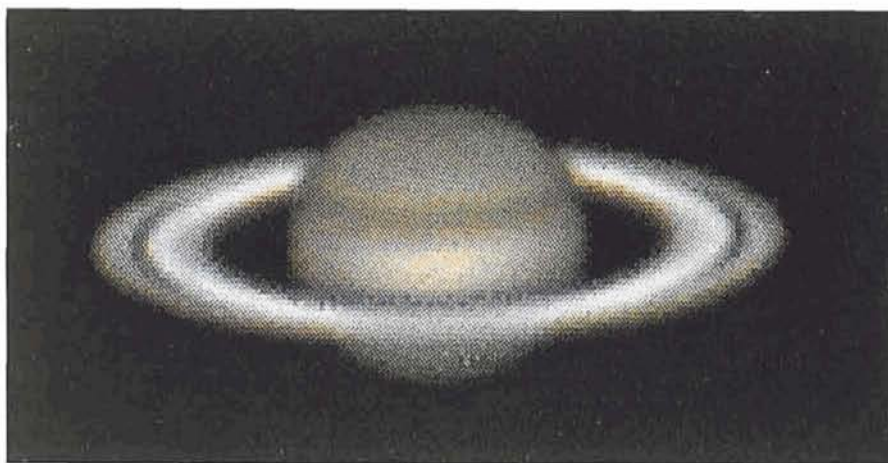


Figure 3: Saturn on August 8, 1992 at 21:30 UT. Composite image of three single images made through Wratten filter 23A for red, 56 for green and 38A for blue light. Exposure time: 0.5 sec, 1 sec and 3 sec for red, green and blue light respectively. The seeing was mediocre (about 2 arcseconds) and the image was taken at the 1.06-m Newton telescope in Puimichel. ▶



is already under construction, I intend to travel to the best places for astronomy in the world, including northern Chile. This will obviously not be easy, but with the help of friends nothing is impossible.

"First light" for the new telescope will be in the first half of 1993. Maybe I will have the opportunity to inform the readers of *The Messenger* about the progress of this project and the results from the future observations.

I want to thank the *Messenger* editor,

who invited me to write about some aspects of CCD astronomy, as it is used by non-professionals. I also want to

thank the ESO Image Processing Group for preparing my images shown in the article.

Development of ESO Publications

Introduction

The readers of *The Messenger* are probably aware that ESO is one of the world's major astronomical institutes, and most of the readers also know that, apart from some advance information published in *The Messenger*, the results of the scientific research performed at ESO are published in the well-known astronomical journals like *Astronomy and Astrophysics*, *Monthly Notices*, *Astrophysical Journal*, etc.

But not so many people realize that, in addition to *The Messenger*, ESO produces many other publications as well and is also a registered "publishing house". The number of these publications and especially their volume has increased over the years, reflecting the increasing scientific and technical activities of this Organization. In this article, the development of ESO's main publications will be described – primarily with regard to the increase of pages from 1974 – the first year of service of the undersigned – to 1992. It would be too time-consuming to compare the page numbers for each of these years. Therefore only the following four years – 1974, 1980, 1986 and 1992 – will be considered here. The six-year intervals have been randomly chosen, and there are certainly fluctuations from one year to the other between these reference years, but the general tendency is obvious: the number of ESO publications has been steadily increasing.

Which Are These Publications?

The most important ESO publications are *The Messenger*, the Annual Report, the ESO Conference and Workshop Proceedings and the Scientific and Technical Preprints. Other series are the VLT Reports, the Scientific Reports, the Technical Reports, the ESO Users Manual, the Operating Manuals and the Maintenance Manuals. In addition to these series, ESO also publishes information material for PR purposes – e.g. press releases and posters – and, from time to time, books like "Evolution in the Universe", "The ESO/Uppsala Survey of the ESO (B) Atlas", "ESO's Early History", etc. The term "main" or "important" publication in this connection only refers to the effort and time required to prepare them for publication. It does not take into account the sometimes enormous efforts of the authors and other people involved (secretaries, photographers, draftsmen, etc.) to draft and type the manuscript and to provide the accompanying illustrations. Information leaflets, posters and similar material (though their preparation can be rather time-consuming) will not be included in this comparison. Their relatively small number of pages does not reflect the time involved and would not have much influence on the total number of pages given hereafter.

In the early years of ESO there existed two other series whose publication was discontinued in the 1970s: *The ESO Bul-*

letin and the *Communications of the European Southern Observatory*. The former mostly contained information of a more technical nature like reports on instrumentation or meteorological reports, and the latter consisted of reprints of articles published in the scientific journals by ESO researchers.

The Messenger

The Messenger was launched in May 1974 by Prof. A. Blaauw (then Director General of ESO) in order "... to promote the participation of ESO staff in what goes on in the Organization, especially at places of duty other than our own. Moreover, *The Messenger* may give the world outside some impression of what happens inside ESO..." It may be useful to remind the reader that in 1974 the ESO Headquarters in Garching did not yet exist and that the European activities of ESO were dispersed over Hamburg (Office of the Director General and Administration) and Geneva (Telescope Project Division and Sky Atlas Laboratory).

The first issue of *The Messenger* had six pages, the one of December 1992, 88 – the record so far attained. The circulation at the beginning was about 1000 copies, today it is 4200, with new subscriptions being opened almost every day. If we except the first three issues, until now two editors have been responsible for the journal, Dr. R. M. West and Dr. P. Véron. *The Messenger*

is now published under the responsibility of the ESO Information Service, to which the undersigned is also affiliated.

Two issues were published in 1974 with a total of 12 pages. In 1980 there were only three issues instead of the four originally planned: No. 20 (12 pages), No. 21 (32 p.) and No. 22 (20 p.), amounting in total to 64 pages. The following issues were published in 1986: No. 43 (36 p.), No. 44 (40 p. [the first colour pictures appear!]), No. 45 (36 p.) and No. 46 (28 p.), which brings us to a total of 140 pages. In the last year of this comparison, 1992, there were also four issues: No. 67 (64 p.), No. 68 (56 p.), No. 69 (72 p.) and No. 70 (88 p.). With a total of 280 pages this is exactly twice the number of pages as in 1986.

The Annual Report

According to the ESO Convention, the Director General "shall submit an annual report to the Council". The four reports compared in this account have been conceived by three different Directors General; note also that the reports published in 1974, 1980, 1986 and 1992, in fact refer to the years 1973, 1979, 1985 and 1991, respectively.

The 1973 and 1979 reports were still published in two versions, an English version and a French one that usually followed about half a year later. The English and French versions of the Annual Reports for the years 1973 and 1979 amounted to 86 and 88 (total: 174), and 56 and 56 (112) pages, respectively. The drop in the number of pages is of course not due to a decrease in the activities of ESO, but to the arrival of a new Director General in 1975, Prof. L. Woltjer, who somewhat changed the style and compressed the format of the report. Later, with the Annual Report for 1980, the format of the report was changed again, and from then on it contained three languages, English, French and German, in one volume. The 1985 report, therefore, again increased to 90 pages, and the 1991 Annual Report, presented by the third Director General during the period under review, Prof. H. van der Laan, to 130 pages.

The ESO Conference and Workshop Proceedings

One of the aims of ESO stated in the Convention is "promoting and organizing co-operation in astronomical research". An important means to fulfill this requirement are the numerous colloquia, workshops and conferences organized by ESO and held at irregular intervals at ESO or at other institutes in the member States and elsewhere. The proceedings of these meetings consti-

Total number of pages/issues published of the various ESO publications in the years 1974, 1980, 1986 and 1992.

Year	1974	1980	1986	1992
The Messenger (number of pages)	12	64	140	280
Annual Report (number of pages)	174 ¹	112 ²	90 ³	130 ⁴
ESO Conference and Workshop Proceedings (number of pages)	398	654	1166	3128
ESO Preprints (number of issues)	–	57	69	93
Other publications (number of pages)	246	188	796	1520

¹Total number of pages of the English (86 p.) and French (88 p.) versions of the Annual Report for 1973. – ²Total number of pages of the English (56 p.) and French (56 p.) versions of the AR for 1979. – ³"New" 3-language version of the AR for 1985. – ⁴3-language version of the AR for 1991.

tute an increasingly important series of ESO publications. To allow speedy publication, the speakers at the meetings are requested to submit their contribution in camera-ready form. Responsibility for the editing is generally assumed by one or several of the organizers of the meeting. The first volume in this series, "ESO/CERN Conference on Large Telescope Design" appeared in 1971.

The first volume considered in this comparison was the No. 4 in the series, "ESO/SRC/CERN Conference on Research Programmes for the New Large Telescopes" (398 p.), published in 1974.

In 1980, the proceedings of three workshops were published: "ESO Workshop on Two Dimensional Photometry" (412 p.), "ESO Workshop on Methods of Abundance Determination for Stars" (56 p.) and "The First ESO/ESA Workshop on the Need for Coordinated Space and Ground-based Observations – Dwarf Galaxies" (186 p.), amounting in total to 654 pages.

In 1986, three proceedings volumes were published: the ESO-OHP Workshop on "The Optimization of the Use of CCD Detectors in Astronomy" (356 p.), the Second Workshop on "ESO's Very Large Telescope" (484 p.) and the Second ESO-CERN Symposium "Cosmology, Astronomy and Fundamental Physics" (326 p.). Taking them together brings us to 1166 pages.

The year 1992 brought about a new record. Five proceedings were published (including the one on "High-Resolution Imaging by Interferometry II" (1318 p.), the manuscripts of which had been submitted to the printer in July 1992, but – due to problems at the printers – the Proceedings were delivered only end of February 1993). The other four proceedings are: "4th ESO/ST-ECF Data Analysis Workshop" (188 p.), "High Resolution Spectroscopy with the VLT" (310 p.), "Progress in Telescope and Instrumentation Tech-

nologies" (778 p.) and "Astronomy from Large Data Bases II" (534 p.). So the total number of pages of the 1992 proceedings amounts to no less than 3128.

The ESO Preprints

The ESO Scientific Preprint series was initiated in 1976, and in 1988 the first Technical Preprint was published. In this comparison, however, no distinction will be made between these two series. The preprints reflect more than any other ESO publication the increasing scientific activities at ESO. They contain articles written by, or in collaboration with, ESO staff and which, normally, have been accepted for publication by one of the big scientific journals. The delay between submission and publication of these articles often amounts to several months, so that in general the results of the research carried out at ESO are made available to the astronomical community much earlier by means of the preprints.

Since a great number of preprints are no longer available, it is not possible to give the exact number of pages published in the years of reference. For this reason only the number of preprints can be given and not the number of pages as for the other publications.

In 1980 there were 57 Scientific Preprints (Nos. 75 – 131). In 1986 this number amounted to 69 (Nos. 411 – 479), and in 1992 there was a total of 93 preprints (Scientific Preprints Nos. 811 – 895 and Technical Preprints Nos. 43 – 50).

Other Publications

The other ESO publications will be treated jointly under this subheading.

In 1974, there were the ESO Bulletin No. 10 (40 p.) and five Technical Reports published by the Telescope Project Division at CERN in Geneva: No. 1 (46 p.),

No. 2 (54 p.), No. 3 (38 p.), No. 4 (22 p.) and No. 5 (46 p.), summing up to a total of 246 pages.

In 1980 were published the Technical Report No. 12 (30 p.), Maintenance Manual No. 1 (78 p.), the User's Manual No. 1 (28 p.) and User's Manual No. 2 (52 p.). This series was later interrupted and succeeded by the "Operating Manual" to avoid confusion with the "big" Users Manual. The total number of pages of these publications amounts to 188.

In 1986 there were the Maintenance Manual No. 4 (50 p.) and the VLT Reports No. 43 (52 p.), No. 44 (172 p.), No. 45 (156 p.), No. 46 (100 p.), No. 47 (34 p.), No. 48 (20 p.), No. 49 (144 p.), No. 50 (16 p.), No. 51 (20 p.) and No. 52 (32 p.), which makes a total of 796 pages.

In 1992 the number of pages of these publications reached so far its highest point: 1520. There were first the Strasbourg-ESO Atlas of Galactic Planetary Nebulae – Part I and Part II – (1044 p.), the Scientific Report No. 11 (212 p.), the VLT Report No. 65 (132 p.) and the Operating Manuals No. 10 (44 p.), No. 14 (36 p.) and No. 16 (52 p.).

Concluding Remarks

Up to now it has been possible to avoid increasing the manpower concerned in spite of the considerable increase in volume of the ESO publications. To make this possible, it was necessary to transfer the PR activities which were previously taken care of by the undersigned to other members of

NEW ESO PUBLICATIONS

The following Conference and Workshop Proceedings have just been published:

ST-ECF/STSci Workshop
Science with the Hubble Space Telescope

The price of this 604-page volume, edited by P. Benvenuti and E. Schreier, is DM 80,-.

ESO/EIPC Workshop
Structure, Dynamics and Chemical Evolution of Elliptical Galaxies

This volume, edited by I. J. Danziger, W. W. Zeilinger and K. Kj ar, is available at a price of DM 90,-.

The above-mentioned prices include packing and surface mail. Prepayment is required for all publications. Payments have to be made to the ESO bank account 2102002 with Commerzbank M nchen or by cheque, addressed to the attention of

ESO, Financial Services
 Karl-Schwarzschild-Str. 2
 D-W-8046 Garching b. M nchen, Germany

Please do not forget to indicate your complete address and the title of the Proceedings.

the Information Service. So there is still only one man acting as "interface" between authors and editors, on the one hand, and the printers, on the other. Today, however, it seems that the limit of what is possible within the present system and with the present manpower has been attained. The 40-hour week has become a rare exception and longer delays are often unavoidable. Nevertheless, authors of papers for the Conference and Workshop Proceedings and to a certain extent also the authors of preprint articles and the editors of manuals

have the possibility to alleviate this situation somewhat, by really making their papers camera-ready. Indeed, a number of authors have recently made great efforts in this sense, and it is hoped that others will follow their example. This could in many cases help reduce delays.

I should like to take this opportunity to thank the authors and editors for their patience and comprehension, especially in those cases where the preparation of their publication took longer than expected.

K. KJ AR, ESO

Written-Off Items Available at ESO Garching

The following electronic parts, in good condition for further use, have recently been written off at ESO, Garching, and are immediately available for donation to Scientific Institutes provided that:

- a formal request is presented to ESO, Contracts and Procurement (Mr. F. Palma, Tel.: 0049-89-32006-205, Fax: 0049-89-3207327), before April 30, 1993,
- the Institute takes charge with own means of picking up the equipment in the place, state and condition where the item is located; alternatively, the Institute can request delivery from ESO to a given destination at no warranty, bearing, however, the costs of removal, packing and transport.

- Assignments* will be done
- in order of presentation of a formal request up to exhausting items;
 - giving priority to Institutes in the ESO Member States;

- giving preference to Institutes located in other countries, for which no export licence from Germany is necessary.

F. PALMA, ESO

Manufact.	Description	Part Number	S/N	Year of Manuf.
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Kennedy	Magnet Tape	MT15	102-2422	1981
Kennedy	Magnet Tape	MT14	102-2421	1981
Kennedy	Magnet Tape	MT13	001-1394	1981
Kennedy	Magnet Tape	MT12	002-1463	1981
Hewlett Packard	Disc Controller	DC4HP13037B	1808F00470	1978
Hewlett Packard	Disc Controller	DC6HP13037C	1944A07543	1980
Hewlett Packard	Disc Drive	D21HP7914R	2413F00694	1984
Hewlett Packard	Disc Drive	D4HP7920A	1752A01479	1978
Hewlett Packard	Disc Drive	D9HP7920B	2028A02341	1980

(continued on page 64)