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lished in the *British Medical Journal* (which was the first journal to join PMC) are also available free from PMC on day of publication<sup>1</sup>.

### Evaluation of data

PMC reviews a sample of data from the journal to ensure that a publisher can routinely supply journal data of sufficient quality to generate complete and accurate articles online. PMC normally requires a minimum sample of three issues or 50 articles for evaluation. The journal should provide one issue from the current year and one issue from each of the preceding years. If a journal expects to start with less than three years' worth of issues, it should provide three sample issues from the available range of issues. If the minimum number of issues defined above comprises less than 50 articles, PMC will require additional issues to make up the 50-article minimum. If a journal is brand new and has published fewer than three issues or 50 articles, PMC still needs to have a reasonable

sample, something in the vicinity of 10 articles.

### Conclusion

PMC is a project masterminded by the US NIH to make the results of original research in the life sciences freely available to everyone via the Internet. Material is presented to the user in a uniform format after receiving data from various journals. Participation in PMC will improve the quality of the journal's electronic archival record.

1. Delamothe, T. and Smith, R., *Br. Med. J.*, 2000, **321**, 192; 2001, **322**, 1-2.

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## Techno Market Survey Reports from TIFAC

The Technology Information, Forecasting and Assessment Council (TIFAC) is a Registered Society of the Government of India, Department of Science and Technology and has been on the scene since 1988. It has published over 250 Techno Market Survey Reports so far. These are specialized reports and cover a wide variety of topics of economic relevance to India. According to TIFAC, they cover areas 'from agriculture to advanced sensors and from materials to biotechnology'.

V. S. Ramamurthy (Secretary, Department of Science and Technology) said that the Techno Market Survey Reports are neither technical reports nor market surveys but are a combination of both. The reports are concise, consolidated and unbiased and give to the end user well-researched information on options in various technologies.

For example, TIFAC has made a Techno Market survey of 'Traffic Management Streamlining Technologies' that covers the whole gamut of status and profile of Traffic in India with special reference to Kanpur and Delhi. The Traffic report studies viability of Traffic Management Technology and future investments forecast in this area for some sample cities, and recommends an action plan. This is just one example of the 250 Reports available as of now with several more in the pipeline. The forthcoming Reports are on topics such as Biochips, Transgenic Animal Models, Human Body Implants, Fuel Cells and Technologies for retrofitting existing structures to make them earthquake resistant.

Among the other Techno Market Survey Reports available, mention must be made of strategy reports on Non-ferrous metals. These pertain to Aluminium,

Copper, Magnesium and Titanium. TIFAC reports on Refractory metals, Rare Earths etc. are expected by the end of the year. Many organic acids that are currently imported like Itaconic, Gluconic, Glutamic, Lactic and L-Lysine can be produced using molasses as raw material (by-product of the sugar industry). The technology for production, assessment of demand, supply, import export details, etc. are available in five volumes. A comprehensive picture of Science and Technology in India in the form of several reports are also available. For more on this and other TIFAC activities log on to their website [www.tifac.org.in](http://www.tifac.org.in).

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