

Disciplinary societies as supporters of scientific journals.
Some remarks on the genesis of physical journals during
the 19th century in Germany
(Disziplinäre Gesellschaften als Träger von
Fachzeitschriften. Einige Anmerkungen zur Entstehung
physikalischen Zeitschriften im 19. Jahrhundert
in Deutschland)

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There are not many studies on the history of scientific journals under the aspect of history of science. This study mainly deals with physical journals in Germany during the 19th century, notably *Annalen der Physik* (formerly *Annalen der Physik und Chemie*) and *Fortschritte der Physik*, and will discuss a few aspects of this subject, especially in connection with the genesis and evolvement of scientific societies.

While the *Annalen*, founded in 1799 (1790), only had a single editor – between 1824 and 1877 it was J. Chr. Poggendorff – and mainly published original scientific papers, the *Fortschritte* were founded by the *Physical Society of Berlin* to be published annually with the aim to review the progress in the different branches of physics during the preceding year. It is shown that such a reviewjournal was possible only with the help of many authors, and only something like a society was able to manage the necessary expenditure (although with a lot of difficulties, too). The development of the physical journals is compared with the development of some journals in chemistry, physical chemistry and electrotechnics. It seems, that the founding of new journals mainly went together with the birth of specialized scientific societies during the second half of the 19th century. The societies understood the publication of journals as a means toward their own institutionalization. Due to the rising of costs of the production of journals on the one hand but gain of prestige on the other hand for both sides, the scientific societies were also eager to take over successful journals (e.g. the *Physikalische Gesellschaft* in 1895 gained influence on the *Annalen*)

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