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Editorial note

We felt it would be helpful to add more detail on the RSC publishing processes with regard to some of the points raised in the article.

Editing of supplemental data

While our intention is to make the authors' original data available without editing, in some cases this is unavoidable due to formatting or presentational issues. However, we wouldn't alter data or claim copyright ownership due to enhancement.

Robotic access to website

At present we only allow Google to index our site, and restrict other robots to avoid degradation of our service to readers. We would consider requests to allow addition access to known robots from the scientific community.

Format of published articles

The current presentation of electronic articles as HTML/GIF and PDF is, as the authors say, completely for the convenience of humans – for legibility, printability and in formats that almost everyone can open. This does not mean that additional formats could not be made available if the demand arises. The RSC keeps an archive of its published papers as XML and high-resolution TIFF images, so publishing of data in a more machine-readable form is perfectly possible.

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