


News

The Newsletter of the R Project

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Editorial

by Kurt Hornik and Friedrich Leisch

Welcome to the second issue of *R News*, the newsletter of the R project for statistical computing. First we would like to thank for all the positive feedback we got on the first volume, which encourages us very much to continue with this online magazine.

A lot has happened since the first volume appeared last January, especially the workshop “DSC 2001” comes to mind. More on this remarkable event can be found in the new regular column “Recent Events”. During DSC 2001 the R Core Team was happy to announce Stefano Iacus (who created the Macintosh port of R) as a new member of R Core: Welcome aboard, Stefano!

We have started collecting an annotated R bibliography, see <http://www.R-project.org/doc/bib/R-publications.html>. It will list books, journal articles, ... that may be useful to the R user community (and are related to R or S). If you are aware of any publications that should be included in the bibliography, please send email to R-core@R-project.org.

To make citation easier we have registered an ISSN number for this newsletter: ISSN 1609-3631. Please use this number together with the home page of the newsletter (<http://cran.R-project.org/doc/Rnews/>) when citing articles from *R News*.

We are now planning to have 4 issues of *R News*

per year, scheduled for March/April, June/July, September/October and December/January, respectively. This should fit nicely into the calendar of the (Austrian) academic year and allow the editors to do most of the production work for at least 3 issues during semester breaks or holidays (remember that currently, all of the R project including this newsletter is volunteer work). Hence, the next issue is due after (northern hemisphere) summer: all contributions are welcome!

R 1.3.0 has just been released, and its new features are described in “Changes in R”. Alongside, several add-on packages from CRAN have been categorized as *recommended* and will be available in all binary distributions of R in the future (“Changes on CRAN” has more details). *R News* will provide introductory articles on each recommended package, starting in this issue with “mgcv: GAMs and Generalized Ridge Regression for R”.

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