

Early History

Naval Research Logistics was originally launched in 1954 by the Office of Naval Research. In the premier issue, Admiral F. R. Furth, Chief of Naval Research, stated that the journal was created as a “medium through which scientists can acquaint themselves with the problems of operations logistics [in the Navy], and through which operating naval officers will be informed about the latest results and techniques devised by the scientists.”

At the time, a yearly subscription rate was \$1.50 in U.S., \$2.00 elsewhere; single issues \$0.50. The journal was originally a quarterly through 1986. From 1987-1991 NRL was published 6 issues annually. From 1992-94, 7 issues were published each year. In 1995 the switch was made to 8 issues a year.

NRL is actually older than another popular journal, *Management Science*, by 7 months. Their first issue Vol. 1, #1 appeared in October, 1954.

NRL's Vol. 1, #1 dated March, 1954 included an article by Henry E. Eccles “Logistics – What is it.” In Vol. 1, #2 Henry Eccles also wrote a commentary on the Rommel Papers. Other early contributors were S. M. Johnson, D. W. Blackett (“Some Blotto Games”), C. E. Lemke (“The Dual Method of Solving the Linear Programming Problem”), Richard Bellman and Walter Jacobs.

Another pioneering paper that appeared in Vol. 2, #1 and 2, March-June, 1955 was “The Hungarian Method for the Assignment Problem” by Harold W. Kuhn. Prof. Kuhn's contributions to optimization, discrete and continuous, linear and nonlinear, from its earliest days are legendary. More about the impact of Prof. Kuhn on NRL later.

Past NRL Managing Editors were Jack Laderman (1954), Alan J. Hoffman (1955), M. E. Rose (1956), M. I. Rosenberg (1957-58), Harris P. Jones (1959), H. D. Moore (1960-61), Jack Laderman (1962) and Seymour Selig (1963-82). Past Editors-In Chief included Herbert Solomon (1983-88), Richard F. Rosenthal (1989-2003), David Simchi-Levi (2003-05), Barry L. Nelson (2006-2008). The current Editor-in-Chief is Awi Federgruen.

Although NRL is sometimes referred to as the great journal with the funny name, the publisher, current and previous editors-in-chief feel strongly about maintaining a connection to the journal's history while retaining its interest in naval and other military applications. NRL has for decades been a journal devoted to operations and analysis problems in business, industry and government.

Naval Research Logistics is now a premier peer-reviewed journal in operations research, applied statistics, and general quantitative modeling, with special interest in applications covering the full spectrum of logistics problems.

Submissions that are most appropriate for *NRL* are papers addressing modeling and analysis of problems motivated by real-world applications; major methodological advances in operations research and applied statistics; and expository or survey pieces of lasting value. Areas represented include (but are not limited to) probability, statistics, simulation, optimization, game theory, quality, scheduling, reliability, maintenance, supply chain, decision analysis, and combat models.

In 2004 NRL established a new “best paper award” to recognize and reward outstanding research published in NRL since its founding in 1954 and elected to name the award after the first recipient. That recipient was Harold W. Kuhn. Prof. Kuhn’s seminal paper “The Hungarian Method for the Assignment Problem” set the style for both content and exposition of many other algorithms in combinatorial optimization.

The award was presented at the October 25, 2004 INFORMS meeting.

Currently the [Kuhn Award](#) recognizes an outstanding paper that was published in NRL within the last three years and that represents the many important and significant contributions that appear in the journal.

In 2006 the Kuhn Award was presented at the Pittsburgh INFORMS Naval Research Logistics Associate Editor dinner to Shane Dye, Leen Stougie and Asgeir Tomasgard for their manuscript “The Stochastic Single Resource Service-Provision Problem,” *Naval Research Logistics*, 2003, Volume 50, Issue 8, pp. 869-887.

The 2007 Kuhn Award was presented at the Seattle INFORMS Naval Research Logistics breakfast to Wonghee Tim Huh, Robin O. Roundy, Metin Cakanyildirim, “A General Strategic Capacity Planning Model under Demand Uncertainty,” 2006, Vol. 53, No.2, pp.137-150.

The 2008 Kuhn Award was presented at the Washington, DC INFORMS Naval Research Logistics breakfast to Xiaodong Xu and John R. Birge, “Equity Valuation, Production, and Financial Planning: A Stochastic Programming Approach,” 2006, Vol. 53, No.7, pp. 641-655.

New Features – New Look

Special issues devoted to a single topic will be published occasionally.

The October 2006 Vol. 53, #7 was a Special Issue featuring 8 articles on “Applications of Financial Engineering in Operations, Production, Services, Logistics, and Management” co-edited by John Birge and Vadim Linetsky.

“What you should know about...”

By mid-2007 NRL plans to have cover articles a few times a year (with colorful journal covers) featuring perspectives pieces by invited authors. The inaugural article is by Ward Whitt of Columbia University “What you should know about queueing models to set staffing requirements in service systems”

“Technical Notes”

Beginning with Volume 54 (2007) NRL will add a Technical Notes category. Technical Notes are short communications that contain important, but highly focused, foundational results on which others can build, or useful extensions and generalizations of previously published research.

Richard E. Rosenthal, who was Editor in Chief of *Naval Research Logistics* from 1989 through 2003, passed away on January 3, 2008. In Rick’s honor *Naval Research Logistics* will publish a special issue in late 2009 dedicated to operations research in military and security applications.

R.E. Rosenthal, *Naval Research Logistics, R/MS Today*, 17(1) (1990), 40-43.
Analysts' Bookshelf, *JSTOR*, 3(3), 365-367.
Analysts' Bookshelf, *JSTOR*, 2(4), 461-462.