

Acta Orthopaedica

Editor's Report on Volume 78, 2007

Production

THE 6 REGULAR ISSUES of volume 78 2007 (77 2006, 76 2005) contained 862 (989, 951) printed pages with 128 (142, 143) Original articles (8 of them Case reports and Technical notes), 3 (7, 6) Editorials, 2 (3, 7) Reviews 2 (5, 10) Book reviews, and 1 (3, 1) Letter to the editor.

We published 4 (4, 5) Supplements (4 doctoral theses). The total number of pages printed in 2005 was 1018 (1177, 1158) regular issues 862 pages, supplements 156 (188, 207) pages. We have published 3 educational articles from the International Evidence-Based Orthopaedic Surgery Working Group together with an Editorial on Evidence-based orthopedics. Submission and publication of manuscripts

571 manuscripts were submitted in 2007 (647 2006, 626 2005, 645 2004, 414 2003). 60 % were clinical, 25% case reports, and 15% experimental. The prognosis for year 2008 is 600 submitted ms. One quarter (the same fraction since 5 years) of the manuscripts were submitted from Scandinavia and The Netherlands.

Sweden submitted 46 (34 2006, 53 2005, 38 2004), The Netherlands 30 (55, 40, 45), Denmark 26 (23, 18, 25),

Finland 12 (21, 23, 19), Norway 14 (20, 18, 18) and Iceland 0 (0, 2, 1) ms.

Most manuscripts were submitted from UK 71 (86 2006, 89 2005, 68 2004), Sweden 46 (34, 53, 38), Germany 43 (48, 42, 42), Japan 43 (51, 49, 56), South Korea 42 (21, 27, 13), the Netherlands 30 (55, 40, 45), Turkey 28 (38, 42, 66), India 23 (24, 22, 30), and Denmark 26 (23, 18, 25).

Less than one tenth of the many ms from UK are published, it seems that many of these ms are submitted to us after having been rejected by JBJS (Br).

Of the 128 articles published 2007, Sweden contributed 25, the Netherlands 20, Norway 13, Germany 13, and Denmark 12.

Please note that comparisons of submitted and published per year is not meaningful. There is an overlap between years; many of the ms submitted one year are published the next year.

Handling times and acceptance rate

The handling times have diminished after introducing our electronic manuscript handling system, Manuscript Manager (MM) in 2004 and they still diminish. During 2007 the time from submittance to the first letter from coeditor was less than 1 month for 60 % of the ms and less than 2 months for 85 %. The mean time from acceptance to publication was about 6 months 2006. This time will further decrease, we have since long had a backlog of ms ready for publication, which however has decreased the latest year.

Long publication times (paper print) can be compensated for by online Preprint publication of accepted articles, being immediately free on the Web. This means that the time from acceptance to formal paper publication will not be critical. We have asked our publisher (Taylor and Francis) to arrange for this so far without success. There is also a delay in the mark-up of abstracts in PubMed with the "Open Access" link to the full-text article in the publisher's data-base. This delay is caused by PubMed, the publisher has repeatedly tried to speed up the process.

The acceptance rate in 2007 was 20%, the same since 2004 but have decreased from the 30% we had 1997–2003. Most case reports are rejected (without review). Of the other ms about one half is sent for external review.

Subscriptions

On Dec 2007 we had 4458 subscribers (2006 4484; 2005 4598; 2004 4830; 2003 4639; 2002 4580; 2001 4859). 3515 were collective subscribers, 909 institutional (mainly libraries), and 39 personal (Tables 1-3). (Note that the numbers of US subscriptions has increased!). Institutional (mainly libraries) subscriptions have decreased from 1703 in 1999 to 904 in 2007 (Table 3). The decrease started before we introduced Open Access (OA) and is a general phenomenon because of the stretched economy of the libraries caused by the substantial increases of the subscription prices for all journals owned by the large, for-profit, publishers.

Acta is an exception—being a non-profit journal owned by NOF—subscription cost for collective subscribers (orthopedic surgeons in Scandinavia and the Netherlands) has been unchanged since several years and is as low as 50 Euro, for others it is USD 410, low compared to most journals. We had expected a still larger decrease since 2005 when Acta started OA. However, the decrease of library subscriptions during 2006 and 2007 is moderate. Either libraries are not aware of our OA or they want to archive Acta in paper print.

Finances

See separate report by Peter Frandsen.

We had only a slight deficit for this year. This deficit is expected and is caused by the decreasing number of library subscriptions, in part caused by our Open Access.

Our costs can be reduced in many ways. We have since start of our electronic ms submission and handling system, MM, a diminished need for secretary work, in the future, with further refinements of MM, a secretary working 1/3 or half time will be sufficient.

With start 2009 we will change to a cheaper cover paper, the one we now use is expensive; this will also reduce postage. We have also discussed to increase the format to the one used by most journals. (Acta on paper will certainly go on for many years. One reason is that our advertisers strongly prefer the paper version).

We have also decided to allow advertisements on the backcover (after many years resistance); this place is well paid for by advertisers.

Other possibilities is to increase the cost of collective subscriptions and introduce page charges, see below. However. for the moment there is no immediate need for these measures.

Open Access

Full text Acta articles are from 2005 free for all on the Web at the same time as the paper publication. (Many journals have a 6–12 months delay.) They are easily accessed via PubMed where abstracts are marked with an icon “Open Access” linked to the electronic library managed by our publisher. This library contains all Acta articles published since 2000.

The publisher has recently made full text PDF-files of all Acta-articles published since start 1930. This electronic library will be sold to libraries and part of this income will go to Acta (probably no great sums). We negotiate with the publisher to buy this library and make it free for everone.

Our Open Access has lead to a dramatic increase of the number of downloads of full-text Acta articles (via the link in PubMed to the publishers database); during year 2007 the full text of 11 500 Acta articles were

downloaded every month compared to 1 203 in 2003! This is twice the number of the most down-loaded other Scandinavian Taylor and Francis journals. Of the 1 400 journals managed by our publisher, Acta takes position 5 from top in this regard. This was exactly the goal for our Open Access: to make Acta more read which in the long run means that Acta will be still more known and attract more high quality articles.

Website

Our website got a make-up 2006, visit it at www.actaorthop.org! Among other things it is now used for deposition of large tables, some of which will no longer be printed but only available on the website, with reference from the printed article.

Impact factor

Acta's impact factor was 10 years ago 0.6, for 2002 it was 1.2, 2003 0.8, 2004 1.0, 2005 1.2, 2006 1.3 (JBJS Am 2.4, JBJS Br 1.8, CORR 2.2).

See Appendix for most cited articles.

Manuscript Manager

Our electronic manuscript system (Manuscript Manager, MM) for electronic handling of manuscripts, including the review and language revision process, started Feb 2004 and now functions well after several modifications to adjust it to Acta's way of production. Also authors are satisfied; online submission with MM is considerably easier than with many other systems.

Editors' meetings

The Editors have, as usual, had 2 meetings: in Wanås, southern Sweden, April 27 and in Oslo Oct 5. At the Wanås meeting thanks went to Annette van Hauen who retired after devoted work for Acta during 35 years.

Improvements of MM were discussed. Acta's statistician, Jonas Ranstam talked about: Statistical review: How I do it.

Bart Swierstra and Rolf Önnarfält had examined articles published in Acta, JBJS (both) and CORR in 2006: the Netherlands published about the same numbers in each journal whereas Scandinavia published 3 times more often in Acta. Jonas Ranstam informed about Clinical Trial Registration and discussed the distinction between statistical and clinical significance/importance.

Policy for acceptance of ms was discussed. Acceptance of ms in Acta is not only based on scientific soundness but also influenced on by whether findings are new (or important confirmation of previous findings) and interesting and the competition for space.

Meetings with the publisher

We have 2 meetings a year with our publisher who since many years wants to take over the production of Acta. That means that accepted ms are sent to the publisher who then cares for language correction, lay-out of the article, and composition of the individual issues, which now all is done at the Lund office. It is unclear whether such a system would save money without compromising the quality. Language revision/copy editing is now done by a highly qualified person (with a scientific background), lay-out is since many years done by our production manager (also an orthopedic surgeon) and the final revision and composition of individual issues (bundling of articles within the same research field, sometimes preceded by an Editorial) is done by the Editor.

The Future

The Open Access movement will go on. An increasing number of the large international grant givers (recently including NIH) now require funded authors to publish their research results in Open Access journals or, in other ways, make publications free on the Web. These grant givers also state that part of the grants perfectly well could be used to cover publication costs when journals change from being reader paid to being author paid, an evolution foreseen by many and also planned for by Acta. Already today some journals, owned by commercial publishers and not free on the Net, offer authors to have their specific article laid free on the Web for a cost around 2000-2500 Euro! Obviously

some authors are already prepared to pay for Open Access publication. When we need to increase our income we will introduce page charges (considerably lower than the sums above) and, at that time, most authors should know that there is a price for Open access and be willing to pay it.

Appendix

Top 5 most cited Acta articles published 2005-2006:

Total hip arthroplasty for primary osteoarthritis in younger patients in the Finnish arthroplasty register - 4661 primary replacements followed for 0-22 years. Eskelinen A, Remes V, Helenius I, et al. 2005: 28-41 Times Cited: 21

Guidelines for standardization of radiostereometry (RSA) of implants Valstar ER, Gill R, Ryd L, et al. 2005: 563-572 Times Cited: 20

Title: Drugs and fracture repair Aspenberg P. 2005: 741-748 Times Cited: 15

Aseptic loosening, not only a question of wear - A review of different theories Sundfeldt M, Carlsson LV, Johansson CB, et al. 2006: 177-197 Times Cited: 14

The economic cost of low back pain in Sweden in 2001 Ekman M, Johnell O, Lidgren L 2005: 275-284 Times Cited: 14

Anders Rydholm

Lund 2008 June 03

Table 1. Collective subscriptions

	2007	2006	2005	2004	2003	2002
Norway	559	447	432	421	393	420
Finland	513	505	495	489	405	390
Denmark	708	684	706	687	656	640
Sweden	1180	1196	1171	1108	1245	1106
Iceland	32	32	34	18	27	20
The Netherlands	523	519	478	469	489	435
Total	3515	3383	3316	3279	3164	3065

Table 2. Distribution of Acta in the top 8 (more than 20 subscriptions) foreign countries (mainly institutional subscriptions)

	2007	2006	2005	2004	2003	2002
USA	230	282	240	328	341	396
Japan	203	214	212	258	255	302
UK	61	65	82	84	96	155
Spain	56	57	81	69	61	64
Germany	36	41	62	50	54	57
South Korea	41	38	56	39	33	37
Italy	35	40	48	45	35	50
France	24	26	34	26	30	39

Table 3. Institutional and personal subscriptions

	2007	2006	2005	2004	2003	2002	2001	2000
Institutional	870	1047	1154	1237	1325	1433	1516	1616
Individual	39	54	85	69	150	82	80	64

	Ms submitted 2001-2007*								Ms published 2001-2007*						
	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007		2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
Sweden	48	41	37	38	53	34	46		19	22	28	31	30	43	25
Denmark	18	27	20	25	18	23	26		6	13	14	6	9	11	12
Norway	16	7	7	18	18	20	14		11	8	4	10	11	11	13
Finland	19	14	13	19	23	21	12		6	9	5	1	9	8	5
Iceland		1		1	2					0	1		1		
The Netherlands	32	23	26	45	40	55	30		14	10	6	7	18	11	20
Sum	133	113	103	146	154	153	128		56	62	58	55	78	84	75
	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007		2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
Argentina	2	4	2		2	1	1		3	2	2	2	2		1
Australia	2	1	1	5	3	8	4		1	2		5	4	2	3
Austria	10	8	7	13	10	9	13		3	2	3	1	1	3	2
Belgium	3	4	12	10	6	11	4		2	2	3				
Brazil	2	1		1	1	1	2								
Canada	1		4	4	5	4	7		2		3		2	1	1
China			5	12	3	8	9			1				1	1
Croatia	1	2	1				1								
Czech Rep		2	1	3		1	3								
France	7	6	7	9	6	8	4		1	2	2	3	1	1	
Germany	43	47	41	42	42	48	43		10	13	11	7	7	13	13
Greece	6	8	10	16	16	12	13		1	1	2		1	1	
Hong Kong	1	1	2						1				2		
Hungary	6	4	2	3	3	4	3		1	1					1
India	4	7	6	26	19	24	23		1			1		1	
Iran			1	6	8	1	1								
Ireland	2	2	3	5	3	5	5		3		1	1	1	1	1
Israel	12	12	7	13	8	6	9		2	1	3	5	1	1	1
Italy	10	21	9	17	19	24	19			5	2	1	1	2	2
Japan	50	47	65	56	49	51	43		7	12	7	10	8	4	3
Nepal						2	1								
Poland	2		8	5	4	10	9		1		2				
Slovenia						3	3								
Singapore			1			1	1								
South Korea	11	20	14	13	27	21	42		3		2	3	5	4	
Spain	10	11	9	28	21	23	13		4	1	1	3	2	2	1
Switzerland	6	4	6	14	17	6	9		2		2		4	3	
Taiwan	7	10	12	16	22	29	14		2		1	2	3	3	1
Turkey	38	28	36	66	42	38	28		3	4	3	0	3		1
UK	46	29	27	68	89	86	71		5	6	14	7	10	5	8
USA	15	13	5	18	26	21	25		7	6	3	5	6	8	4
Others				14	21	4	20								9
Total sum	444	417	414	632	629	645	571		123	124	125	114	142	143	128
* Does not include Reviews & Editorials															