

Acta Orthopaedica

Editor's Report on Volume 79, 2008

Production

The 6 regular issues of volume 79 2008 (78 2007 77 2006, 76 2005) contained 877 (862, 989, 951) printed pages with 122 (128, 142, 143) Original articles (6 of them Case reports and Technical notes), 5 (3, 7, 6) Editorials, 4 (2, 3, 7) Reviews, 1 (2, 5, 10) Book reviews, and 5 (1, 3, 1) Letter to the editor.

We published 2 (4, 4, 5) Supplements (both doctoral theses). The total number of pages printed in 2005 was 963 (1018, 1177, 1158): regular issues 877 pages, supplements 86 (156, 188, 207) pages.

Submission and publication of manuscripts

651 manuscripts were submitted in 2008 (660 2007, 645 2006, 629 2005, 632 2004, 414 2003). 60 % were clinical, 25% case reports, and 15% experimental, the same distribution since several years. The prognosis for year 2009 is 650-700 submitted ms.

One quarter (the same fraction since 6 years) of the manuscripts were submitted from Scandinavia and The Netherlands. See appendix, page 3.

Of the 122 original articles published 2008, Sweden contributed 26, Denmark 14, Germany 11, Norway 10, UK 10, and the Netherlands 8,

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 90 %. The mean time from submittance to accept was 8 (6 -14) weeks, the time depends mainly on the number of revisions necessary and the time taken by authors to do these revisions. The mean time from acceptance to publication was about 6 months 2006.

The half year from acceptance to paper print will be of minor interest when we year 2009 start online Preprint publication of proofs which will be immediately free on the Web (ePub ahead of print) as soon as the author has accepted them.

The acceptance rate in 2007 was 20%, the same since 2004. Most case reports are rejected (without review). Of the other ms about one half is sent for external review.

Subscriptions

On Dec 2008 we had 4592 subscribers (2007 4458; 2006 4484; 2005 4598; 2004 4830; 2003 4639; 2002 4580; 2001

4859). 3755 were collective subscribers, 807 institutional (mainly libraries), and 30 personal (Tables 1-3).

Institutional (mainly libraries) subscriptions have, as expected, decreased: from 1703 in 1999 to 807 in 2008 (Table 3). The decrease is most probably caused by our Open Access (although it started before we introduced OA)

The subscription cost for collective subscribers (orthopedic surgeons in Scandinavia and the Netherlands) has been unchanged since many years and is as low as 50 Euro since 1996, for others it is USD 455, low compared to most journals.

Finances

Previous 2 years slight deficits were compensated for by a surplus year 2008, see economy report from Peter Frandsen.

Our costs have and will be further reduced in many ways. We have since start of our electronic ms submission and handling system, MM, diminished the need for secretary work. With start 2009 we will change to print a standard format and on a cheaper paper; printing costs will be substantially decreased. (Acta on paper will certainly go on for many years. One reason is that our advertisers strongly prefer the paper version).

Our income will be increased by more advertisements including the backcover (after many years resistance); this place is well paid for by advertisers. Other possibilities are to increase the cost of collective subscriptions and introduce page charges, see below. However, for the moment there is no 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 easy accessed via PubMed where abstracts are marked with an icon "Open Access" linked to the electronic library managed by our publisher. From 2009 all articles will be saved in PubMed Central. A previous 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, has been eliminated.

The publisher has recently made full text PDF-files of all Acta-articles published since start 1930. We have bought this library in 2008 and it is now free for everyone, easily accessible via our web-site (www.actaorthop.org).

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); Numbers will be presented by our publisher during the Board meeting. Of the 1 400 journals managed by our publisher, Acta takes position close to 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. 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; 2007 1.3

2007 impact factors for the leading general orthopedic journals

	IF	5-yr IF
JBJS (Am)	2.5	1.5
CORR	1.9	2.3
JBJS (Br)	1.9	1.0
ACTA	1.3	1.6

Since 2007 impact factors are also given for a 5-yr interval (previously only for 2-yr). It is of interest to note that, regarding the 5-yr IF, Acta compares well with JBJS.

Our electronic manuscript system (Manuscript Manager, MM) for electronic handling of manuscripts, including the review 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 Bjärsjölagård, southern Sweden, May 16 and in London Nov 21.

At the May meeting we decided that authors' revisions must be sent back to us within 3 months, otherwise the file be closed. The registration of clinical trials was discussed; Acta will, accepting a transition period, require this registration for publication.

At the London meeting (in part together with James Scott, editor of JBJS (Br) we discussed the fact that many ms, obviously first rejected by JBJS, were sent to us, and that more than 90 % of these ms were rejected also by us. It would be of interest to know whether the ms had been revised by authors before sent to us. Jonas Ranstam described how he reviewed clinical trial ms.

James Scott reported on JBJS's organization and management of ms. Compared with that of JBJS the office of Acta could be called a minioffice (both as regards localities, people engaged, and costs)

The Future

The Open Access movement will inevitably roll 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 web, offer authors to have their specific article laid free on the Web for a cost around 2,000-3,000 €! Although obviously some authors are already prepared to pay for Open Access publication, this sum is ridiculous. 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, rapid publication, nice layout, and be willing to pay it.

	2008	2007	2006	2005	2004	2003	2002
Norway	664	559	447	432	421	393	420
Finland	527	513	505	495	489	405	390
Denmark	798	708	684	706	687	656	640
Sweden	1210	1180	1196	1171	1180	1245	1160
Iceland	32	32	32	34	18	27	20
The Netherlands	524	523	519	478	469	489	435
Total	3755	3515	3383	3316	3279	3164	3065

Collective subscribers

	2008	2003	2002
USA	168	341	396
Japan	171	255	302
UK	55	96	155
Spain	50	61	64
Germany	28	54	57
S Korea	34	33	37
Italy	26	35	50
France	22	30	39

Distribution of Acta in the top 8

	2008	2007	2006	2005	2004	2003	2002	2001	2000
Institutional	807	870	1047	1154	1237	1325	1433	1516	1616
Individual	30	39	54	85	69	150	82	80	64

Institutional and personal subscriptions

Ms submitted 2001-2008*

Ms published 2001-2008*

	'01	'02	'03	'04	'05	'06	'07	'08		'01	'02	'03	'04	'05	'06	'07	'08
Sweden	48	41	37	38	53	34	46	46		19	22	28	31	30	43	25	26
Denmark	18	27	20	25	18	23	26	24		6	13	14	6	9	11	12	14
Norway	16	7	7	18	18	20	14	19		11	8	4	10	11	11	13	10
Finland	19	14	13	19	23	21	12	25		6	9	5	1	9	8	5	6
Iceland		1	0	1	2	0	0	0		0	1			1	0		
The Netherlands	32	23	26	45	40	55	30	57		14	10	6	7	18	11	20	8
Sum	133	113	103	146	154	153	128	171		56	62	58	55	78	84	75	64

	'01	'02	'03	'04	'05	'06	'07	'08		'01	'02	'03	'04	'05	'06	'07	'08
Argentina	2	4	2		2	1	1			3	2	2	2	2			1
Australia	2	1	1	5	3	8	4	7		1	2		5	4	2	3	2
Austria	10	8	7	13	10	9	13	11		3	2	3	1	1	3	2	1
Belgium	3	4	12	10	6	11	4	5		2	2	3					1
Canada	1		4	4	5	4	7	5		2		3		2	1	1	4
China			5	12	3	8	9	35			1				1	1	2
France	7	6	7	9	6	8	4	6		1	2	2	3	1	1		
Germany	43	47	41	42	42	48	43	52		10	13	11	7	7	13	13	11
Greece	6	8	10	16	16	12	13	13		1	1	2	0	1	1		1
Hungary	6	4	2	3	3	4	3	1		1	1		0				1
India	4	7	6	26	19	24	23	19		1	0		1		1		
Iran			1	6	8	1	1	6			0						
Ireland	2	2	3	5	3	5	5	6		3	0	1	1	1	1	1	2
Israel	12	12	7	13	8	6	9	6		2	1	3	5	1	1	1	
Italy	10	21	9	17	19	24	19	26			5	2	1	1	2	2	1
Japan								40									5
Poland	2		8	5	4	10	9	7		1		2					
South Korea	11	20	14	13	27	21	42	41		3	0	2	3	5	4		1
Spain	10	11	9	28	21	23	13	14		4	1	1	3	2	2	1	3
Switzerland	6	4	6	14	17	6	9	12		2		2		4	3		
Taiwan	7	10	12	16	22	29	14	8		2		1	2	3	3	1	2
Turkey	38	28	36	66	42	38	28	15		3	4	3		3			1
UK	46	29	27	68	89	86	71	78		5	6	14	7	10	5	8	10
USA	15	13	5	18	26	21	25	24		7	6	3	5	6	8	4	7
Others	68	65	77	14	21	4	15			10	13	17	13	12	8	9	
Sum	444	417	414	632	629	645	660	651		123	124	125	114	142	143	128	122

* Does not include How I do it articles, Reviews, and Editorials.