

## Editor's Report on Volume 85, 2014

### Production

The 6 regular issues of volume 85, 2014 (2013, 2012, 2011, 2010, 2009) contained 690 (601, 675, 765, 771, 741) printed pages with 105 (100, 105, 120, 126, 122) original articles. Of the 105 articles, 12 were register studies, 4 randomized clinical trials, 7 case reports/technical notes. Furthermore we published 5 editorials and 6 letters to the editor. We published 5 supplements (altogether 185 pages).

### Submission and publication of manuscripts (Table 1)

972 manuscripts were submitted (989 in 2013, 786 in 2012, 741 in 2011, 685 in 2010, 667 in 2009).

61 % were clinical, 17 % case reports, 12 % experimental, and 10 % others, the same distribution since several years.

One fifth (216/972) of the manuscripts were submitted from NOF members.

Of the 105 published articles, Denmark contributed 22, Sweden 21, Finland 11, UK 10, the Netherlands 9, Norway 9, Germany 7.

Country distribution of submitted and published manuscripts is similar since several years except for an ongoing increase in manuscripts submitted from China (this year 80), Germany (78) and USA (58). Most manuscripts have since several years been submitted from UK, this year 85.

Please note that direct comparisons of the number of submitted manuscripts and published articles per country and 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

70 % of ms have a first decision letter within 3 weeks, 85 % within 6 weeks. Rejection time: 1- 6 weeks.

The mean time from submittance to acceptance was < 3 months for one third of ms, and 4-6 months for half of the ms. Acceptance times partly depend on the number of revisions necessary and the time taken by authors to do these revisions. Almost all ms undergo 1 or more revisions before acceptance. Handling times have been about the same since 5 years

The mean time from acceptance to paper publication was 7 months 2014. This half year from acceptance to paper print is of less interest; in 2009 we started online preprint publication of proofs which are free on PubMed (Epub ahead of print) 1-2 weeks after the authors has accepted them.

The acceptance rate in 2014 was 13 %, the same as in 2012-13 but a decrease from the around 20 % we have had since 2004.

Most case reports were rejected (without review). Of the other ms half were rejected in-house (that is without external review) whereas the other half (382) were sent for review, most often by 2 external experts. 131 ms were accepted after this external review, 251 were rejected.

Our high rejection rate is a combination of our increasing quality requirements and the increasing number of ms submitted.

The acceptance rate varies between countries (highest for the Nordic countries), but note that all manuscripts are evaluated by co-editors and reviewers outside the submitting country.

### Subscriptions

On Dec 2014 (2013, 2012, 2011, 2010, 2009) we had 4 804 subscribers (4581, 4664, 4626, 4768, 4603, 4592).

4 504 were collective subscribers, 280 institutional (mainly libraries), and 20 personal (Tables 2-4).

Institutional (mainly libraries) subscriptions have, as expected, decreased: from 1703 in 1999 to 280 in 2014 (Table 3). The decrease is caused by our Open Access (although the decrease started already before we introduced OA).

The subscription cost for collective subscribers (orthopedic surgeons in the Nordic Orthopaedic Federation) has been unchanged since many years and is as low as 50 Euro since 1996, for others it is 706 Euro, low compared to most other journals.

### Finances

See economy report from Peter Frandsen.

### Platinum Open Access

All full text Acta-articles published since start 1930 are free for everyone, easily accessible via a link at our web-site ([www.actaorthop.org](http://www.actaorthop.org)) to the electronic library of our publisher.

Acta articles from 2005 are also easily accessed via PubMed where abstracts are marked with an icon "Free Full Text" linked to our publisher. From 2009 all articles are saved and also available for free in PubMed Central via a link from PubMed. Articles are immediately free as soon as proofs have been

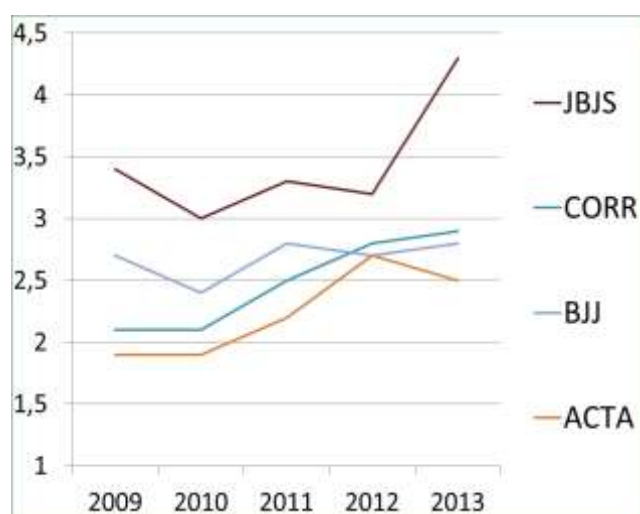
finished. Acta does not charge author fees. This type of immediate OA, free of cost for readers but importantly also for authors, is called Platinum Open Access.

Our Open Access has led to a dramatic increase of the number of downloads of Acta articles from our publishers database: in 2014 (2013) the number of downloads was 576 000 (442 000), more than half as full text articles; 1 article is downloaded every second minute. In comparison with other journals published by Informa these are very high numbers. In addition great many articles are downloaded directly from PubMed, however we have no statistics on that.

The top 12 countries (exclusive NOF countries) that download most full text content from Acta are: USA, UK, China, India, Australia, Germany, Japan, Canada, Switzerland.

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### *Impact Factor*

Acta's impact factor was 10 years ago 0.6, for 2013 (latest published data) it was 2.5, close to that of the 3 other large, general orthopedic journals. Among the 65 journals classified as "orthopaedics" Acta ranked 14 in 2013. Am J Sport Med was number 1 (IF 4.7), JBJS (Am) nr 3, CORR nr 8, and BJJ nr 10. The next IF, for year 2014, will be published in June 2015.

### *Apps*

Apps for iPhone and Android with free access to all (regularly updated) Acta articles and supplements since start 1930 were launched 2011 (first orthopedic journal). The App has now been downloaded by

close to 15 000 users who regularly check for and download articles. We get 100 new users per month.

### *Personalia*

Secretary Ann Britt Nordvi finished 2014 after 24 years in Acta.

Co-editor Yrjö Konttinen died suddenly 10 Dec, 2014 after 10 years in Acta. He is honoured by an In Memoriam in our June 2015 issue.

### *Editors' meetings*

The Editors have had 2 meetings, May in Skanör, Sweden and in October outside Copenhagen.

At the Skanör meeting Magnus Tägil, new Web Editor was greeted welcome. Among other issues, plagiarism check were discussed. Andy Beare presented revised version of our electronic ms system. Impact factor poll showed the difficulties to foresee which articles will be highly cited.

At the Copenhagen meeting predatory publishers (who soil the term Open Access) were discussed.

We decided to honour especially good reviewers by a special Christmas letter apart from the ordinary letter which together with a book is mailed all our >200 reviewers.

### *The Future*

The Open Access movement will go on. Still few of the leading medical journals, including orthopedics, are Open Access. An increasing number of journals, owned by commercial publishers, offer authors to have their specific article laid free on the Net for a cost around 2000-3000 Euro. Obviously some authors are already prepared to pay for Open Access publication.

If Acta, in the future, need to increase the income, one option would be to introduce page charges (considerably lower than the sums above). Another, complementary option, would be to print on thinner paper which would reduce the porto costs.

Anders Rydholm 2015 05 29

Table 1. Submission and publication of manuscripts

	Manuscripts submitted									Manuscripts published								
	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Sweden	34	46	46	41	51	41	32	40	53	43	25	26	24	23	29	31	17	21
Denmark	23	26	24	34	33	31	34	42	57	11	12	14	9	10	16	9	16	22
Norway	20	14	19	17	33	21	28	18	23	11	13	10	12	15	19	15	7	9
Finland	21	12	25	23	13	13	14	20	25	8	5	6	7	9	7	4	9	11
Iceland									1						1			1
Estonia							3	2	1									
The Netherlands	55	30	57	62	52	48	49	75	56	11	20	8	15	15	14	11	10	9
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>153</b>	<b>128</b>	<b>171</b>	<b>177</b>	<b>182</b>	<b>154</b>	<b>160</b>	<b>197</b>	<b>216</b>	<b>84</b>	<b>75</b>	<b>64</b>	<b>67</b>	<b>72</b>	<b>86</b>	<b>70</b>	<b>59</b>	<b>73</b>
	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Australia	8	4	7	8	10	16	15	20	12	2	3	2		7	3	2	2	1
Austria	9	13	11	13	6	11	11	19	26	3	2	1	2	1	3	1	1	
Belgium	11	4	5	5	4	7	3	4	5			1		3				
Canada	4	7	5	6	6	7	9	13	10	1	1	4		4		4		2
Egypt					14	11	6	10	13									
China	8	9	35	26	42	40	58	68	80	1	1	2	3	3	1	1	2	1
France	8	4	6	7	2		5	10	14	1			2	1		1		2
Germany	48	43	52	53	61	36	52	63	78	13	13	11	9	5	10	3	8	7
Greece	12	13	13	13	8	2	8	19	12	1		1	2	1				3
India	24	23	19	20	27	18	22	41	24	1								
Iran	1	1	6	14	4	13	5	7	4									

Ireland	5	5	6	11	13	7	11	2	3	1	1	2	1	2	2		1	
Israel	6	9	6	9		6	10	13	7	1	1		2					
Italy	24	19	26	23	17	20	23	26	24	2	2	1	4	2	1	1	2	
Japan	51	43	40	30	26	41	39	52	50	4	3	5	6	4	4	6	2	1
Malaysia							7	7	8									
Poland	10	9	7	8	8	6	12	13	11				1					
Portugal							6	2	1									
Singapore								14	10									
South Korea	21	42	41	46	29	62	45	53	45	4		1	1		2	5	3	
Spain	23	13	14	7	8	20	12	28	25	2	1	3				1		
Switzerland	6	9	12	12	9	11	15	14	15	3			1	2	3	3	1	
Taiwan	29	14	8	28	24	30	17	21	19	3	1	2		2	1			1
Turkey	38	28	15	14	20	23	25	27	29		1							
UK	86	71	78	72	80	80	84	105	85	5	8	10	12	5	6	2	9	10
USA	21	25	24	25	18	32	38	48	58	8	4	7	8	2	2	4	9	4
Others	4	15	34	41	66	88	88	93	88	8	9	5	3	4	1	1	1	
Total	645	660	651	677	685	741	786	989	972	143	128	122	126	120	125	105	100	105

Table 2. Collective subscriptions

	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Sweden	1,196	1,180	1,210	1,210	1,250	1,272	1,292	1,326	1,334
Denmark	684	708	798	817	864	885	895	903	910
The Netherlands	519	523	524	561	660	660	660	750	800
Norway	447	559	664	665	725	746	743	802	810
Finland	505	513	527	543	553	448	552	590	600
Iceland	32	32	32	32	31	31	31	31	31
Estonia							3	50	50
Total	3,383	3,515	3,755	3,868	4,133	4,092	4,176	4,452	4,535

Table 3. Distribution of Acta in the top 7 foreign countries

	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Japan	214	203	171	151	134	118	110	89	73
USA	282	230	168	172	122	101	83	59	57
India							22	11	17
Germany	38	36	28	32	24	23	15	17	15
China						16	15	17	15
UK	65	61	55	46	44	26	22	15	14
Canada									11

Table 4. Library and personal subscriptions

	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Library	1,047	870	807	705	605	512	419	328	280
Personal	54	39	30	30	30	22	22	20	20