

Editor's Report *Volume 91, 2020*

Production

The 6 issues of volume 91, year 2020 (2019, 2018, 2017, 2016, 2015) contained 803 (626, 701, 704, 655, 763) pages with 119 (101, 112, 112, 102, 110) articles. Of these, 32 were register studies, 9 randomized clinical trials, 13 COVID-19 articles, 6 reviews/meta-analyses, 2 study protocols, 3 case reports/ technical notes, and 1 Guide-line article. Furthermore, we published 24 Editorials/Annotations/Perspective (includes 10 Guest Eds in the 90-year anniversary issue), and 5 Letters to the Editor.

90th anniversary issue

The June issue celebrated our 90th anniversary with an Editorial summarizing Acta's development 2000-2020. Further, the Abstracts of the top-10 cited articles 2000-2020 were reprinted, each of them accompanied by a Guest Editorial written by invited experts who commented on the importance of the articles.

Submission and publication of manuscripts (Table 1)

674 manuscripts were submitted (495 in 2019, 574 in 2018, 864 in 2017, 885 in 2016, 940 in 2015)

57 % were clinical, 11 % case reports, 7% experimental, and 4 % reviews/meta-analyses, the similar distribution since several years except for a new category, 9 % of ms concerned COVID-19 (58 ms, probably stimulated by our Editorial promising fast track and no APC for these ms).

One third (234/674) of the manuscripts (ms) were submitted from NOF members, the fraction was the same in 2019 (154/495) but with a notable increase of number of ms submitted in 2020.

The number of submitted ms declined after the introduction of APC (2018), but now seems to recover; especially the number of submissions from UK and USA has increased but not reached the numbers in 2017.

Of the 119 published articles Sweden contributed with 26, Denmark 24, the Netherlands 20, Finland 11, Norway 9, UK 9, Germany 5, South Korea 3, USA 2, China 2 and 1 each from 8 other countries.

During 2020 28/674 (2019 21/341: 2018 23/364) ms from non-NOF countries were accepted and accordingly paid APC.

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 a specific year are published the next year.

Handling of manuscripts and acceptance rate

Submitted ms are rejected at 3 levels, immediately by the editor (desk rejection without peer-review; e.g. many case reports, studies outside our scope, retrospective case series, meta-analyses comprising few eligible or only observational studies) or by co-eds, without or after external review. After this catharsis 20-15% of ms remains and are published.

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.

Handling times have been about the same since almost 10 years: two thirds of ms (except those immediately rejected by in-house evaluation, < 1 wk) have a first decision letter within 3 weeks, four fifths within 6 weeks.

The mean time from submittance to acceptance was 3.5 months and <6 months for more than 90% of the ms. Acceptance times partly depend on the number of revisions necessary and the time taken by authors to do these revisions. All ms undergo 1 or more revisions before acceptance.

The time from acceptance to online publication on the publisher's website has diminished over the years and was 2 weeks 2020, and 1-2 weeks thereafter the article is in PubMed / PubMedCentral.

Subscriptions (Table 2)

On Dec 2020 we had 5308 (5219 year 2019) collective subscribers (NOF members).

Institutional subscriptions (mainly libraries) have, as expected, decreased: from 1237 in 2004 to 38 in 2020 mainly caused by our Open Access (start 2005).

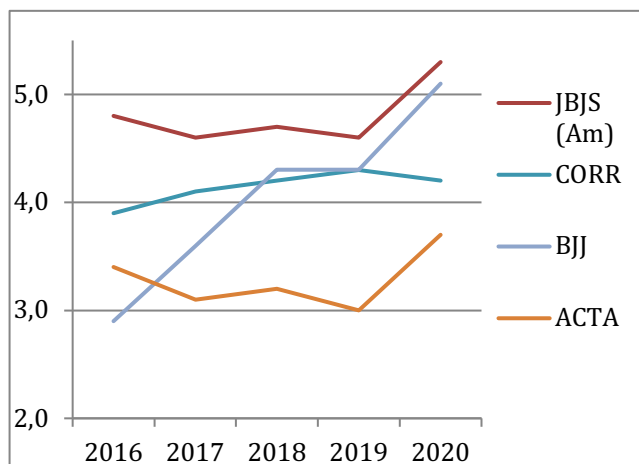
The subscription cost for collective subscribers (orthopedic surgeons in the Nordic Orthopaedic Federation) has been unchanged since many years and is as low as 42 Euro since 1996, for others it is 976 Euro), low compared to most other journals.

Finances

The economy is in balance with a small surplus for 2020

Impact factor

Acta's impact factor 2020 increased to 3.7, all time high. Among the 80 journals classified as "Orthopedics" Acta ranked 17. JBJS ranked 3 (IF 5.3), BJJ nr 7 (IF 5.1, boosted by an exceptional high number of self-cites), CORR nr 14 (IF 4.2). The nr 1 journal was Journal of Physiotherapy, IF 7.0.



Clarivate Analytics have from 2020 started to calculate the Impact Factor based on the date of electronic publication and not the date of print publication. This means that the 2020 numbers are slightly inflated but are expected to even out again next year.

Editor meetings

The Editors have had no physical meetings during 2020, instead had multiple mailconversations.

Executive committee (ExCom) meetings

Anders Rydholm and Peter Frandsen have had several digital meetings with NOF representatives in the ExCom group.

Publisher

Our publisher Taylor & Francis has terminated our contract Dec 31, 2021, and wants to negotiate a new contract which means 2 options; new contract with TF or with another publisher.

Anders Rydholm 2021-06-28

Table 1. Submission and publication of manuscripts

	Manuscripts submitted									Manuscripts published								
	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Sweden	32	40	53	46	53	55	51	39	48	31	17	21	21	21	29	22	26	26
Denmark	34	42	57	44	54	51	51	37	60	9	16	22	18	17	16	14	22	24
Norway	28	18	23	20	30	22	21	10	22	15	7	9	11	10	15	14	4	9
Finland	14	20	25	34	21	32	28	19	31	4	9	11	11	17	9	9	13	11
Iceland			1		1		2		1			1		1				
Estonia	3	2	1	1			2											1
Lithuania							1											1
The	49	75	56	59	77	89	59	49	72	11	10	9	14	9	10	20	15	20
Subtotal	160	197	216	204	236	249	215	154	234	70	59	73	75	74	80	79	82	90
	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Australia	15	20	12	11	14	10	7	8	10	2	2	1	4	1	4	1	1	1
Austria	11	19	26	20	12		8	11	14	1	1		2	2			1	
Belgium	3	4	5	4	3	5	1	2	4							1		
Brazil				8	8	6	3	1	3							1		
Canada	9	13	10	8	6	7	9	3	2	4		2	2			1	1	
Chile						3			1						1			1
China	58	68	80	94	127	77	115	118	102	1	2	1	1	1		1	1	2
Czech rep.									2									
Egypt	6	10	13	22	16	8	4	3	4								0	
France	5	10	14	7	12	12	5	8	6	1		2	3			1		
Germany	52	63	78	53	54	48	26	29	31	3	8	7	4	4	4	4	2	5
Greece	8	19	12	6	3	8	1		3			3						
India	22	41	24	46	32	33	5	4	6							1		
Indonesia									3									

Iran	5	7	4	18	17	8		2	2									1
Ireland	11	2	3	8	3	3	2	1	2		1							
Israel	10	13	7	9	3	5	4	5							1			
Italy	23	26	24	30	28	20	7	9	7	1	2						1	1
Japan	39	52	50	37	41	39	18	15	15	6	2	1	1			1	1	1
Malaysia	7	7	8	2	4	5	1		4									
Malawi									2									
Mexico						3	2		2									
New Zealand									2									
Pakistan						3	4	1	3									
Poland	12	13	11	15	12	6	4	1	9						1			
Portugal	6	2	1	4	4	6	1		2									
Russia						3			2									
Saudi Arabia									2									
Serbia									3									
Singapore		14	10	9	7	8	3	7	14				1					1
Slovenia					2	3		4	5						1			1
South Korea	45	53	45	33	33	48	32	15	28	5	3		1	1	1	3		3
Spain	12	28	25	40	24	26	9	10	20	1			1					1
Switzerland	15	14	15	16	17	17	12	9	12	3	1			5	7			
Taiwan	17	21	19	10	16	15	18	14	12			1				1		
Thailand								3	3									
Tunisia						4	1		2									
Turkey	25	27	29	44	19	17	14	10	2				1	1		1	1	1
UK	84	105	85	61	50	93	17	22	48	2	9	10	11	3	5	10	6	9
USA	38	48	58	64	42	48	17	14	26	4	9	4	5	3	3	4	3	2
Vietnam									2									
Others	88	93	88	65	41	18	8	10	20	1	1		2	6	1	4	1	1
Total	786	989	972	940	885	864	573	495	674	105	100	105	110	102	112	112	101	119

Table 2. Collective subscriptions

	2010	2020
Sweden	1,250	1,301
Denmark	864	921
Norway	725	1,059
Finland	553	680
Iceland	31	48
Estonia		85
Lithuania		244
The Netherlands	660	980
Total	4,133	5,308