

Editor's Report on Volume 80, 2009

Production

The 6 regular issues of volume 80 2009 (2008, 2007, 2006, 2005) contained 741 (877, 862, 989, 951) printed pages with 126 (122, 128, 142, 143) Original articles (5 Case reports and Technical notes), 3 (5, 3, 7, 6) Editorials, 2 (4, 2, 3, 7) Reviews, 0 (1, 2, 5, 10) Book reviews, and 3 (5, 1, 3, 1) Letter to the editor. 8 (2, 4, 4, 5) Supplements were published.

The reduced number of printed pages in the 6 volumes 2009 is explained by the larger format introduced this year.

The total number of pages printed in 2009 was 1140 (963, 1018, 1177, 1158): regular issues 741 pages, supplements 399 (86, 156, 188, 207) pages.

Submission and publication of manuscripts

677 manuscripts were submitted in 2009 (651 2008, 645 2006, 632 2004, 414 2003). 60 % were clinical, 25% case reports, and 15% experimental, the same distribution since several years.

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

Of the 126 original articles published 2009 Sweden contributed 24, the Netherlands 15, Norway 12, UK

12, Denmark 9, Germany 9, and Finland 7. These figures are similar since several years.

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

The handling times have diminished after introducing our electronic manuscript handling system, Manuscript Manager (MM) in 2004. During 2009 the time from submittance to the first letter from coeditor was less than 1 month for 60 % of the ms and less than than 2 months for 90 %. The mean time from submittance to accept was 8 (4 -16) 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 2009.

The half year from acceptance to paper print is now of minor interest; in 2009 we started online preprint publication of proofs which are free on PubMed (Epub ahead of print) 2-3 weeks after the authors has accepted them.

The acceptance rate in 2009 was 19%, 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 2009 (2008, 06, 04, 01) we had 4 603 subscribers (4592, 4484, 4830, 4859). 3868 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 705 in 2009 (Table 3). The decrease is most probably caused by our Open Access (although the decrease started 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 USD 455, low compared to most journals.

Finances

Slight deficits in 2006 and 07 were compensated for by a surplus in 2008 and in 2009, see economy report from Peter Frandsen.

Our costs have been reduced in many ways. We have since start of our electronic manuscript submission and handling system, diminished the need for secretary work, today 2 days a week. A future reduction is foreseen.

In 2009 we changed to print in a standard format and on a cheaper paper; printing costs have decreased substantially. (Acta on paper will certainly go on for many years. One reason is that our advertisers strongly prefer the paper version).

Also, our income have increased by more advertisements, now also on the backcover (after many years resistance); this place is well paid for by advertisers.

Open Access

Full text Acta articles are from 2005 free for all. 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 are saved and available for free in PubMed Central via a link from PubMed.

All Acta-articles published since start 1930 are free for everyone, easily accessible via a link from 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

Among other things it is now used for deposition of large tables, some of which are not 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; 2004 1.0; 2006 1.3; and 2008 it was 1.8.

(JBJS (Am) 3.3 CORR 1.9 JBJS (Br) 2.2)

Editors' meetings

The Editors have, as usual, had 2 meetings: in Borgafjäll, northern Sweden, March 20-21 and in Århus, Nov 6.

At the May meeting among other matters, plans for our 80 anniversary issue (published Feb 2010) were finalized and we decided to update our Guidelines for authors. Editorial policy (reject/accept) was discussed.

The Nov meeting included a report from a large meeting on Peer Review, information about the Equator Network and a lecture on the practical use of Mixed Model Analysis.

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 Net. Still, very 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 we, in the future, 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. When we started Open Access our publisher warned for a dramatic decrease in our income, however, this has not been the case and there seems to be no need for introducing page charges at least for the next 2-3 years.

Anders Rydholm, April 30, 2010

Table 1. Collective subscriptions

	2009	2008	2007	2006	2005	2004	2003	2002
Norway	665	664	559	447	432	421	393	420
Finland	543	527	513	505	495	489	405	390
Denmark	817	798	708	684	706	687	656	640
Sweden	1 210	1 210	1 180	1 196	1 171	1 180	1 245	1 160
Iceland	32	32	32	32	34	18	27	20
Eustonia	50							
The Netherlands	561	524	523	519	478	469	489	435
Total	3 868	3 755	3 515	3 383	3 316	3 279	3 164	3 065

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

	2009	2008	2007	2006	2005	2004	2003	2002
USA	172	168	230	282	240	328	341	396
Japan	151	171	203	214	212	258	255	302
UK	46	55	61	65	82	84	96	155
Spain	46	50	56	57	81	69	61	64
Germany	32	28	36	41	62	50	54	57
South Korea	27	34	41	38	56	39	33	37
Italy	29	26	35	40	48	45	35	50
France	16	22	24	26	34	26	30	39

Table 3. Institutional and personal subscriptions

	2009	2008	2007	2006	2005	2004	2003	2002	2001	2000
Institutional	705	807	870	1 047	1 154	1 237	1 325	1 433	1 516	1 616
Individual	30	30	39	54	85	69	150	82	80	64

Manuscripts submitted

Manuscripts published

	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009		2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
Sweden	41	37	38	53	34	46	46	41		22	28	31	30	43	25	26	24
Denmark	27	20	25	18	23	26	24	34		13	14	6	9	11	12	14	9
Norway	7	7	18	18	20	14	19	17		8	4	10	11	11	13	10	12
Finland	14	13	19	23	21	12	25	23		9	5	1	9	8	5	6	7
Iceland	1	0	1	2	0	0	0			0	1		1	0			
The Netherlands	23	26	45	40	55	30	57	62		10	6	7	18	11	20	8	15
Sum	113	103	146	154	153	128	171	177		62	58	55	78	84	75	64	67

	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009		2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
Argentina	4	2		2	1	1		1		2	2	2	2		1		
Australia	1	1	5	3	8	4	7	8		2		5	4	2	3	2	
Austria	8	7	13	10	9	13	11	13		2	3	1	1	3	2	1	2
Belgium	4	12	10	6	11	4	5	5		2	3						1
Canada		4	4	5	4	7	5	6			3		2	1	1	4	
China		5	12	3	8	9	35	26		1				1	1	2	3
France	6	7	9	6	8	4	6	7		2	2	3	1	1			2
Germany	47	41	42	42	48	43	52	53		13	11	7	7	13	13	11	9
Greece	8	10	16	16	12	13	13	13		1	2	0	1	1		1	2
Hungary	4	2	3	3	4	3	1	1		1		0			1		
India	7	6	26	19	24	23	19	20		0		1		1			
Iran		1	6	8	1	1	6	14		0							
Ireland	2	3	5	3	5	5	6	11		0	1	1	1	1	1	2	1
Israel	12	7	13	8	6	9	6	9		1	3	5	1	1	1		2
Italy	21	9	17	19	24	19	26	23		5	2	1	1	2	2	1	4
Japan	47	65	56	49	51	43	40	30		12	7	10	8	4	3	5	6
Poland		8	5	4	10	9	7	8			2						1
South Korea	20	14	13	27	21	42	41	46		0	2	3	5	4		1	1
Spain	11	9	28	21	23	13	14	7		1	1	3	2	2	1	3	
Switzerland	4	6	14	17	6	9	12	12			2		4	3			1
Taiwan	10	12	16	22	29	14	8	28			1	2	3	3	1	2	
Turkey	28	36	66	42	38	28	15	14		4	3		3		1		
UK	29	27	68	89	86	71	78	72		6	14	7	10	5	8	10	12
USA	13	5	18	26	21	25	24	25		6	3	5	6	8	4	7	8
Litauen							4										2
Others	65	77	14	21	4	15	34	41		13	17	13	12	8	9	5	3