

Editor's Report on Volume 81, 2010

Production

The 6 regular issues of volume 81 2010 (2009, 2008, 2007, 2006) contained 771 (741, 877, 862, 989) printed pages with 120 (126, 122, 128, 142) Original articles (4 Case reports), 4 (5, 3, 7, 6) Editorials, 4 (2, 4, 2, 3) Reviews, 0, (0, 1, 2, 5) Book reviews, and 3 (5, 1, 3, 1) Letter to the editor. 3 (8, 2, 4, 4) Supplements (altogether 105 pages) were published.

The total number of pages printed in 2010 was 876 (1140, 963, 1018, 1177): regular issues 771 pages, supplements 105 pages. The reduced number of pages in the regular issues the latest year corresponds to the larger format of Acta introduced 2009.

Submission and publication of manuscripts (see Appendix)

685 manuscripts were submitted in 2010 (667 in 2009, 651 in 2008, 645 in 2006, 632 in 2004, 414 in 2003). 60 % were clinical, 20 % case reports, and 13% 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.

Of the 120 original articles published 2010, Sweden contributed 23, the Netherlands 15, Norway 15, Denmark 10, Australia 7, and Finland 9, and UK 7. These figures are similar since several years except for an increase for Australia (mainly joint register studies).

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 2010 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 acceptance was 2 (1 -4) months, the time partly depending on the number of revisions necessary and the time taken by authors to do these revisions. The mean time from

acceptance to paper publication was about 6 months 2010.

The 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) 2-3 weeks after the authors has accepted them.

The acceptance rate in 2011 was 19%, approximately the same since 2004. Most case reports were rejected (without review). Of the other ms slightly more than one half were sent for external review.

Subscriptions

On Dec 2010 (2009, 2008, 2006, 2004) we had 4 768 subscribers (4 603, 4592, 4484, 4830, 4859). 4 133 were collective subscribers, 605 institutional (mainly libraries), and 30 personal (Tables 1-3).

Institutional (mainly libraries) subscriptions have, as expected, decreased: from 1703 in 1999 to 605 in 2010 (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 595, low compared to most journals.

Finances

Slight deficits in 2006 and 07 were compensated for by a surplus in 2008, 2009, and 2010, see economy report from Peter Frandsen.

Our costs have been reduced in many ways. We have since start of our electronic manuscript system, diminished the need for secretary work. In 2009 we changed printing into 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).

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 led to a dramatic increase of the number of downloads of full-text Acta articles (via the link in PubMed to the publishers database which was 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.

Impact factor

Acta's impact factor was 10 years ago 0.6, for 2002 it was 1.2; 2004 1.0; 2006 1.3; 2008 1.8 and for 2009 it was 1.9 (JBJS (Am) 3.4 CORR 2.1 JBJS (Br) 2.7).

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.

80th anniversary

The birthday was celebrated in our Feb 2010 issue with Editorials and Review articles on the Swedish arthroplasty registers among other things. The issue comprised no less than 14 Register studies from all over the world.

eACTA

We are planning for an electronic version of Acta for world wide spread.

App

An App with all Acta articles and supplements since start 1930 will soon be launched.

Editors' meetings

The Editors 2 meetings were in Aarhus in May and in Millinge in Oct.

At the May meeting, among other matters, updated Guidelines for authors and a Checklist for authors were presented. Editorial policy (reject/accept) was discussed.

At the Oct meeting our new coeditor, Lars Nordsletten, was introduced and different guidelines (CONSORT, PRISMA, ARRIVE...) were discussed.

At both meetings Jonas Ranstam lectured on biostatistics.

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 one option is to print on still cheaper paper. Next option is to 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. At start of Open Access some warned for Acta's bankruptcy, 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, May 29, 2011