

Editor's Report on Volume 84, 2013

Production

The 6 regular issues of volume 84, 2013 (2012, 2011, 2010, 2009, 2008) contained 601 (675, 765, 771, 741, 877) printed pages with 100 (105, 120, 126, 122, 128) original articles. Of the 100 articles, 12 were register studies, 8 randomized clinical trials, 5 case reports/technical notes, 2 meta-analyses, and 2 were literature overviews. Furthermore we published 5 editorials and 4 letters to the editor. We published 4 supplements (altogether 113 pages).

Submission and publication of manuscripts (Table 1)

989 manuscripts were submitted (786 in 2012, 741 in 2011, 685 in 2010, 667 in 2009, 651 in 2008). 60 % were clinical, 25 % case reports, and 10% experimental, the same distribution since several years.

One fifth of the manuscripts were submitted from NOF members.

Of the 100 published articles, Sweden contributed 17, Denmark 16, the Netherlands 10, UK 9 USA 9, Finland 9, Germany 8, Norway 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 68) and UK (submits most ms, 105).

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.

The mean time from acceptance to paper publication was 6 months 2013. This half year from acceptance to paper print is today 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 2013 was 14 %, the same as in 2012 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 were sent for review, most often by 2 external experts.

Our high rejection rate is a combination of our increasing quality requirements and that several ms are submitted to Acta after first being rejected by another major journal. This is especially common for UK, many ms rejected by JBJS (Br) (today Bone and Joint journal) are sent to Acta (where almost all of them suffer the same fate).

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 2013 (2012, 2011, 2010, 2009, 2008, 2006) we had 4 900 subscribers (4664, 4626, 4768, 4603, 4592, 4484).

4 552 were collective subscribers, 328 institutional (mainly libraries), and 20 personal (Tables 2-4).

Institutional (mainly libraries) subscriptions have, as expected, decreased: from 1703 in 1999 to 328 in 2013 (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 641 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) to the electronic library of our publisher.

Acta articles from 2005 are also easily accessed via PubMed where abstracts are marked with an icon “Open Access” 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 2013 the number of downloads was 442 024, 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 from PubMed, however we have no statistics on that.

The top 12 countries that download full text content from Acta are: USA, UK, China, India, Sweden, the Netherlands, Germany, Japan, Canada, Switzerland, Norway, Denmark.

Creative commons; no copyright

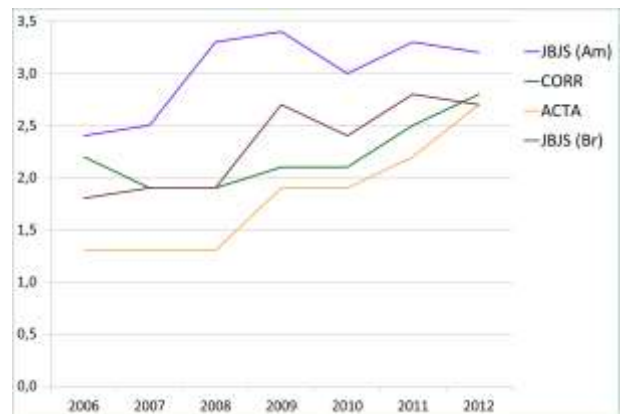
Acta articles are distributed under the terms of the Creative Commons Attribution Non-commercial License, which permits any non-commercial distribution and reproduction: Acta has no copyright on articles.

Impact factor (figure)

Acta's impact factor was 10 years ago 0.6, for 2012 (latest published data) it was 2.7, close to that of the 3 other large, general orthopedic journals. Among the 65 journals classified as “orthopaedics” (Thomson ISI) Acta had position 22 in 2010, 16 in 2011 and 10 in 2012. Am J Sport Med was number 1 (IF 4.4), JBJS (Am) nr 3, CORR nr 8, and JBJS (Br) nr 11. The next IF, for year 2013, will be published in June 2014.

Citation pattern

We published 1 103 articles 2000-2014, 12 % have no citations, 30 % have less than 5 citations, 26 articles have 50 or more. The mean number of citations was 11. Latest years articles with key words Register or Prosthesis have caught most citations. Since 2010 Acta has published close to 100 register a



Since 2010 Acta has published close to 100 register articles, most of them highly cited. Like our Feb 2010 anniversary issue, we plan the Feb 2015 issue be a “register issue”. > 400 register people all over the world has been informed and invited to submit manuscripts. Acta with Open Access and no copyright, is an appropriate journal for these studies.

Website

Apart from information about Acta and how to write, organize and submit a ms it is used for deposition of large tables, some of which are not printed but only available on the website, with reference from the printed article (Supplementary data).

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 13 000 users who regularly check for and download articles. We get 100 new users per month.

TopOrthoApps Join Our Mailing List
Mobile App Reviews for Orthopaedic Surgeons

Acta Orthopaedica Journal
Feb 26, 2011 · by toporthoapps · Academic, All Apps, Clinics, Free, General Ortho, iPad Apps, iPhone Apps, Journals/Books, Readers, Students, Top · Comments Off

Overall: 4+
Functionality: 4
Coolness: 4+

Acta Orthopaedica (previously Acta Orthopaedica Scandinavica) is the first orthopaedic journal to have developed a fully-functional mobile app utility with 100% read capability. The app does everything one might expect from a journal app, and is even more impressive because the journal is a non-profit, Open Access journal. Thus, all content is completely free of cost. The app allows for access to archives as early as 1930 and allows the user to download and read the full PDF article literally within seconds. The only missing function that would be useful is the ability to search articles. Of course, this could be done through Google Scholar or PubMed, but integration in the app would be an obvious enhancement. Among its other useful features includes direct links to Google Scholar to see how many citations an article has, as well as the ability to view “Early Online” articles that may not yet be PubMed indexed.

Web Editor (new position)

Magnus Tägil, hand and orthopedic surgeon in Lund/Malmö, was appointed Web Editor responsible for our Apps, our website, communication/feedback with readers, authors, reviewers (Acta on Face-book, Twitter...). He starts his work in 2014.

Editors' meetings

The Editors have had 2 meetings, May in Paris and October at Wanås, Sweden.

At the Paris meeting, among other issues, plagiarism check and Acta support of "Guidelines for reporting arthroplasty register data (REPART)" were discussed. We decided on an Acta Award (5 000 euro) for best presentation (and also publication in Acta) at the 2013 ISAR meeting in Stratford. Jonas Ranstam (our statistician, now also working for Lancet) lectured on randomized clinical trials. Per Aspenberg was congratulated for the 2012 Pauwels medal.

At the Wanås meeting Nils Hailer reported from the 2nd International Congress of Arthroplasty Registries where he promoted Acta as a good choice for publication of Register studies. Bart Swierstra reported on highlights from the recent 7th International Congress on Peer Review and Biomedical publishing in Chicago. Some observations: Submission fee USD 250 reduced number of submitted to half. High download first year does not predict high citation rate. Editors asking for more citations to own journal in accepted ms is not uncommon practice.

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, or complementary option, would be to shorten printed articles (1 page!?) and publish the complete article on only our website. This would of course save a lot of printing/paper cost.

Anders Rydholm 2014 05 27

Table 1. Submission and publication of manuscripts

	Manuscripts submitted									Manuscripts published								
	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
Sweden	53	34	46	46	41	51	41	32	40	30	43	25	26	24	23	29	31	17
Denmark	18	23	26	24	34	33	31	34	42	9	11	12	14	9	10	16	9	16
Norway	18	20	14	19	17	33	21	28	18	11	11	13	10	12	15	19	15	7
Finland	23	21	12	25	23	13	13	14	20	9	8	5	6	7	9	7	4	9
Iceland	2									1						1		
Estonia								3	2									
The Netherlands	40	55	30	57	62	52	48	49	75	18	11	20	8	15	15	14	11	10
Subtotal	154	153	128	171	177	182	154	160	197	78	84	75	64	67	72	86	70	59
	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
Australia	3	8	4	7	8	10	16	15	20	4	2	3	2		7	3	2	2
Austria	10	9	13	11	13	6	11	11	19	1	3	2	1	2	1	3	1	1
Belgium	6	11	4	5	5	4	7	3	4				1		3			
Canada	5	4	7	5	6	6	7	9	13	2	1	1	4		4		4	
Egypt						14	11	6	10									
China	3	8	9	35	26	42	40	58	68		1	1	2	3	3	1	1	2
France	6	8	4	6	7	2		5	10	1	1			2	1		1	
Germany	42	48	43	52	53	61	36	52	63	7	13	13	11	9	5	10	3	8
Greece	16	12	13	13	13	8	2	8	19	1	1		1	2	1			
India	19	24	23	19	20	27	18	22	41		1							
Iran	8	1	1	6	14	4	13	5	7									

Ireland	3	5	5	6	11	13	7	11	2	1	1	1	2	1	2	2		1
Israel	8	6	9	6	9		6	10	13	1	1	1		2				
Italy	19	24	19	26	23	17	20	23	26	1	2	2	1	4	2	1	1	2
Japan	49	51	43	40	30	26	41	39	52	8	4	3	5	6	4	4	6	2
Malaysia								7	7									
Poland	4	10	9	7	8	8	6	12	13					1				
Portugal								6	2									
Singapore									14									
South Korea	27	21	42	41	46	29	62	45	53	5	4		1	1		2	5	3
Spain	21	23	13	14	7	8	20	12	28	2	2	1	3				1	
Switzerland	17	6	9	12	12	9	11	15	14	4	3			1	2	3	3	1
Taiwan	22	29	14	8	28	24	30	17	21	3	3	1	2		2	1		
Turkey	42	38	28	15	14	20	23	25	27	3		1						
UK	89	86	71	78	72	80	80	84	105	10	5	8	10	12	5	6	2	9
USA	26	21	25	24	25	18	32	38	48	6	8	4	7	8	2	2	4	9
Others	21	4	15	34	41	66	88	88	93	12	8	9	5	3	4	1	1	1
Total	629	645	660	651	677	685	741	786	989	142	143	128	122	126	120	125	105	100

Table 2. Collective subscriptions

	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
Sweden	1,171	1,196	1,180	1,210	1,210	1,250	1,272	1,292	1,326
Denmark	706	684	708	798	817	864	885	895	903
The Netherlands	478	519	523	524	561	660	660	660	750
Norway	432	447	559	664	665	725	746	743	802
Finland	495	505	513	527	543	553	448	552	590
Iceland	34	32	32	32	32	31	31	31	31
Estonia								3	50
Total	3,316	3,383	3,515	3,755	3,868	4,133	4,092	4,223	4,223

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

	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
Japan	212	214	203	171	151	134	118	110	89
USA	240	282	230	168	172	122	101	83	59
UK	82	65	61	55	46	44	26	22	15
India								22	11
Germany	62	38	36	28	32	24	23	15	17
France							17	15	10
China							16	15	17
Other									110

Table 4. Institutional and personal subscriptions

	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
Institutional	1,154	1,047	870	807	705	605	512	419	328
Personal	85	54	39	30	30	30	22	22	20