

## Editor's Report on Volume 86, 2015

### Production

The 6 regular issues of volume 85, 2015 (2014, 2013, 2012, 2011, 2010) contained 763 (690, 601, 675, 765, 771) printed pages with 110 (105, 100, 105, 120, 126) original articles. Of the 110 articles, 24 were register studies, 6 randomized clinical trials, 3 case reports/technical notes. Furthermore we published 8 editorials and 5 letters to the editor. We published 4 supplements (altogether 138 pages).

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

940 manuscripts were submitted (972 in 2014, 989 in 2013, 786 in 2012, 741 in 2011, 685 in 2010).

60 % were clinical, 20 % case reports, 10% experimental, 6 % reviews and 4 % others, the same distribution since several years.

One fifth (204/940) of the manuscripts were submitted from NOF members.

Of the 110 published articles Sweden contributed 21, Denmark 18, the Netherlands 14, Finland 11, Norway 11, UK 11, Germany 4, Australia 4.

Country distribution of submitted and published manuscripts is similar since several years except for an ongoing increase in manuscripts submitted from China (this year 94, very few accepted).

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 (except those immediately rejected by in-house evaluation, < 1 wk) have a first decision letter within 3 weeks, 85 % within 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 2015. 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) 2-3 weeks after the authors has accepted them.

The acceptance rate in 2015 was 12 %, the same as in 2012-13 but a decrease from the around 20 % we have had since 2004.

Almost all case reports were rejected (without external 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. Half of these were rejected after external review, the remaining half (just over 100) were accepted.

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 2015 (2014, 2013, 2012, 2011, 2010, 2009) we had 4 833 subscribers (4804, 4581, 4664, 4626, 4768, 4603).

4 605 were collective subscribers, 208 institutional (mainly libraries), and 20 personal (Tables 2-4).

Institutional (mainly libraries) subscriptions have, as expected, decreased: from 1703 in 1999 to 208 in 2015 (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 783 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 deposited, 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 both readers and authors, is called Platinum Open Access.

Our Open Access has led to a dramatic increase of the number of downloads of Acta articles: in 2015 the total number of full-text downloads from our publisher and Pubmed Central was 757 000 (2014; 576 000, 2013; 442 000), furthermore 280 000 only abstracts were downloaded. 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 and Switzerland.

### *End of printed Supplementums*

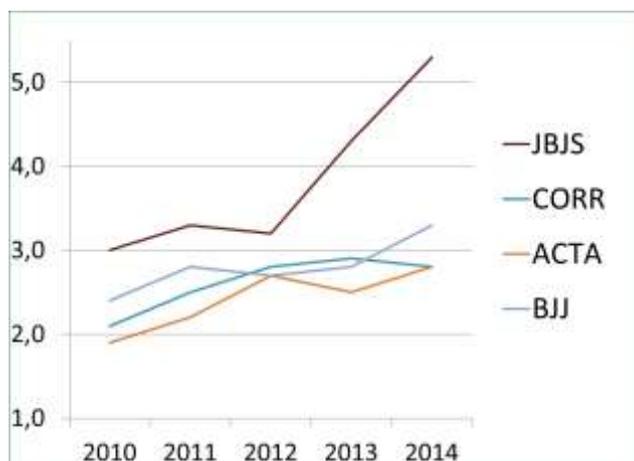
Acta has decided to stop printing paper supplementums; most of them have been doctoral theses (based on a number of already published articles) which nowadays are easily available from the Universities. During recent years the print cost for a Supplementum has been paid for by the authors, the porto cost has been paid by Acta (around 15 000 Euro annually). A possibility for electronic only supplementums remains; 2 will be published in 2016.

### *Creative commons; no copyright*

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### *Impact Factor*

Acta's impact factor was 10 years ago 0.6, for 2014 (latest published data) it was 2.8, close to that of the 3 other large, general orthopedic journals. Among the 70 journals classified as "orthopaedics" Acta ranked 10 in 2014. JBJS was number 1 (IF 5.3), BJJ nr 5, and CORR nr 11. The next IF, for year 2015, will be published in June 2016.



### *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 in 100+ countries who regularly check for and download articles. We get 100 new users per month.

### *Editors' meetings*

The Editors have had 2 meetings, April in Skanör, Sweden and in October in Copenhagen. Some of the issues discussed are summarized:

The Skanör meeting started with a silent minute for Yrjö Konttinen (Memorial in April 2015 issue. Acta economy (how to decrease costs and increase incomes) was discussed. The main explanation for poor economy is the great loss of library subscriptions. Great costs are print (around 100 000 Euro/yr and porto, around 100 000 Euro/yr)

Thinner print paper (started 2016) will decrease porto costs which, of course, could be eliminated, together with print costs, by Acta going electronic only, a likely development. Incomes can be increased by an article processing charge (APC) as already used by many journals. A larger increase of ads (few last years) is unlikely.

Max number (3 300) of words in manuscript was decided. Jonas Ranstam lectured on poorly defined RCTs.

At the Copenhagen meeting Andy Beare (responsible for Manuscript Manager) summarized 10 years with Acta. The dramatic increase of so called predatory publishers (who soil the term Open Access) was discussed. Jonas Ranstam lectured on statistical Multivariate Models.

### *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.

Likely, Acta in the near future will be published electronically only and an article processing charge will be introduced.

Anders Rydholm 2016-05-30

Table 1. Submission and publication of manuscripts

	Manuscripts submitted									Manuscripts published								
	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Sweden	46	46	41	51	41	32	40	53	46	25	26	24	23	29	31	17	21	21
Denmark	26	24	34	33	31	34	42	57	44	12	14	9	10	16	9	16	22	18
Norway	14	19	17	33	21	28	18	23	20	13	10	12	15	19	15	7	9	11
Finland	12	25	23	13	13	14	20	25	34	5	6	7	9	7	4	9	11	11
Iceland								1					1				1	
Estonia						3	2	1	1									
The Netherlands	30	57	62	52	48	49	75	56	59	20	8	15	15	14	11	10	9	14
<b>Subtotal</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>204</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>	<b>75</b>

	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Australia	4	7	8	10	16	15	20	12	11	3	2		7	3	2	2	1	4
Austria	13	11	13	6	11	11	19	26	20	2	1	2	1	3	1	1		2
Belgium	4	5	5	4	7	3	4	5	4		1		3					
Brazil									8									
Canada	7	5	6	6	7	9	13	10	8	1	4		4		4		2	2
Egypt				14	11	6	10	13	22									
China	9	35	26	42	40	58	68	80	94	1	2	3	3	1	1	2	1	1
France	4	6	7	2		5	10	14	7			2	1		1		2	3
Germany	43	52	53	61	36	52	63	78	53	13	11	9	5	10	3	8	7	4
Greece	13	13	13	8	2	8	19	12	6		1	2	1				3	
India	23	19	20	27	18	22	41	24	46									
Iran	1	6	14	4	13	5	7	4	18									
Ireland	5	6	11	13	7	11	2	3	8	1	2	1	2	2		1		

Israel	9	6	9		6	10	13	7	9	1		2						
Italy	19	26	23	17	20	23	26	24	30	2	1	4	2	1	1	2		
Japan	43	40	30	26	41	39	52	50	37	3	5	6	4	4	6	2	1	1
Malaysia						7	7	8	2									
Poland	9	7	8	8	6	12	13	11	15			1						
Portugal						6	2	1	4									
Singapore							14	10	9									1
South Korea	42	41	46	29	62	45	53	45	33		1	1		2	5	3		1
Spain	13	14	7	8	20	12	28	25	40	1	3				1			1
Switzerland	9	12	12	9	11	15	14	15	16			1	2	3	3	1		
Taiwan	14	8	28	24	30	17	21	19	10	1	2		2	1			1	
Turkey	28	15	14	20	23	25	27	29	44	1								1
UK	71	78	72	80	80	84	105	85	61	8	10	12	5	6	2	9	10	11
USA	25	24	25	18	32	38	48	58	64	4	7	8	2	2	4	9	4	5
Others	15	34	41	66	88	88	93	88	65	9	5	3	4	1	1	1		2
Total	660	651	677	685	741	786	989	972	940	128	122	126	120	125	105	100	105	110

Table 2. Collective subscriptions

	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Sweden	1,180	1,210	1,210	1,250	1,272	1,292	1,326	1,334	1,272
Denmark	708	798	817	864	885	895	903	910	910
The Netherlands	523	524	561	660	660	660	750	800	800
Norway	559	664	665	725	746	743	802	810	973
Finland	513	527	543	553	448	552	590	600	577
Iceland	32	32	32	31	31	31	31	31	23
Estonia						3	50	50	50
Total	3,515	3,755	3,868	4,133	4,092	4,176	4,452	4,535	4,605

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

	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Japan	203	171	151	134	118	110	89	73	54
USA	230	168	172	122	101	83	59	57	37
India						22	11	17	15
Germany	36	28	32	24	23	15	17	15	15
China					16	15	17	15	11
UK	61	55	46	44	26	22	15	14	9
Canada								11	12

Table 4. Library and personal subscriptions

	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Library	870	807	705	605	512	419	328	280	208
Personal	39	30	30	30	22	22	20	20	20