

Acta Orthopaedica

Editor's Report on Volume 87, 2016

Production

The 6 issues of volume 87, 2016 (2015, 2014, 2013, 2012, 2011) contained 655 (763, 690, 601, 675, 765) printed pages with 102 (110, 105, 100, 105, 120) articles. Of these, 17 were register studies, 13 randomized clinical trials (largest number so far), 6 reviews/meta-analyses, and 3 case reports/ technical notes. Furthermore we published 6 editorials and 8 letters to the editor. We published 2 eSupplementums (electronic only): eSuppl 362: ISAR meeting Gothenburg 2015, Sweden and eSuppl 363: AROS meeting Århus 2015, Denmark. The content in these eSuppls is peer-reviewed. Printed supplements are no longer produced.

An increasing amount of article data, mainly large tables, are included as Supplementary data, available only in the online version of the article

Submission and publication of manuscripts (Table 1)

885 manuscripts were submitted 2016 (940 in 2015, 972 in 2014, 989 in 2013, 786 in 2012, 741 in 2011).

65 % were clinical, 18 % case reports, 10% experimental, and 7 % reviews, the same distribution since several years.

One forth (236/885) of manuscripts were submitted from NOF members.

Of the 102 published articles Sweden contributed 21, Denmark 17, the Netherlands 9, Finland 10, Norway 10, Switzerland 5, Germany 4, UK 3, USA 3.

Country distribution of submitted and published manuscripts is similar since several years except for an ongoing increase in manuscripts submitted from China: this year 127, year 2015 94, very few are 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

Handling times have been about the same since 6 years 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. All ms undergo 1 or more revisions before acceptance.

The mean time from acceptance to paper publication was 7 months 2016. 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 have accepted them.

The acceptance rate in 2015 was 11 %, about the same since 3 years.

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 or these were rejected after external review, the remaining half (102) were accepted.

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 (Table 2)

On Dec 2016 (2015, 2014, 2013, 2012, 2011, 2010) we had 4 850 subscribers (4804, 4581, 4664, 4626, 4768, 4603).

4 692 were collective subscribers, 138 institutional (mainly libraries), and 20 personal.

Institutional (mainly libraries) subscriptions have, as expected, decreased: from 1703 in 1999 to 138 in 2016 mainly caused by our Open Access (start 2005). This means a considerable loss of income which may in part be compensated for by electronic only publication and an article producing cost.

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 861 Euro, low compared to most other journals.

Finances

See economy report from Peter Frandsen.

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).

Acta articles from 2005 are also easily accessed via PubMed where abstracts are marked with an icon "[Free PMC Article](#)"

Acta does, so far, 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 article downloads: in 2016 the total number of full-text downloads from our publisher and Pubmed Central was 1 million (2015 757 000 (2014; 576 000, 2013; 442 000). In comparison with other journals published by Informa these are very high numbers.

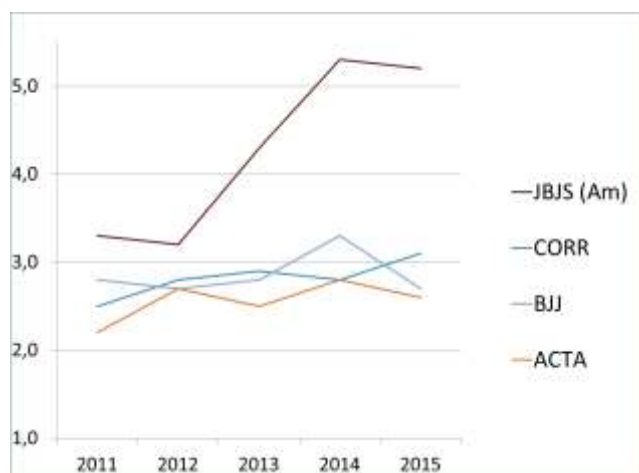
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Impact factor

Acta's impact factor was 10 years ago 0.6, for 2015 (latest published data) it was 2.6, close to that of the 3 other large, general orthopedic journals. Among the 74 journals classified as "Orthopedics" Acta ranked 13 in 2015. JBJS was number 1 (IF 5.2), CORR nr 6, BJJ nr 11. The next IF (2016), will be published in June 2016: the prognosis for Acta is 2.9-3.0.

Of articles published 2013-14 (base for IF year 2015) 25% were not cited, 23% cited 1 time, 16% 2, 17% 3-4, and 19% were cited 5-13 times during 2015.



The top 5 journals which cited Acta were: *Journal of Arthroplasty, Clinical Orthopaedics and Related Research, Injury, Bone and Joint Journal and International Orthopaedics* (note absence of *Journal of Bone and Joint Surgery!*).

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 17 000 users in 100+ countries who regularly check for and download articles. We get 100 new users per month.

Editor's meetings

The Editors have had 2 meetings, March in Lodsby, Norway and in October in Skanör, Sweden. Some of the issues:

Jonas Ranstam (Acta's statistician) was congratulated for Publons Top Reviewer Award: 657 reviews completed Oct 2015 – Oct 2016!

Name of reviewers (almost all of them review non-anonymously) will be included (with permission) in articles.

Quiz on citation rates for 15 articles published in JBJS with often surprising results: it is difficult to predict if an article will be highly cited or not.

Saving/sharing clinical data. We agreed that Acta will not host primary study data, will be the responsibility of authors.

Discussions on Acta's future.

Jonas Ranstam lectured on statistics at both meetings.

Executive committee meetings

Anders Rydholm and Peter Frandsen have had meetings with our publisher Håkan Pårup (Taylor&Francis) and with NOF, specifically on Acta's future, see below.

The Future

The Open Access movement goes on. However, still few of the leading medical journals, including orthopedics, are Open Access.

Acta will in due time be published only electronically.

An article processing cost will be introduced.

Anders Rydholm 2017-04-23

Table 1. Submission and publication of manuscripts

	Manuscripts submitted									Manuscripts published								
	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
Sweden	46	41	51	41	32	40	53	46	53	26	24	23	29	31	17	21	21	21
Denmark	24	34	33	31	34	42	57	44	54	14	9	10	16	9	16	22	18	17
Norway	19	17	33	21	28	18	23	20	30	10	12	15	19	15	7	9	11	10
Finland	25	23	13	13	14	20	25	34	21	6	7	9	7	4	9	11	11	17
Iceland							1		1				1			1		
Estonia					3	2	1	1										
The Netherlands	57	62	52	48	49	75	56	59	77	8	15	15	14	11	10	9	14	9
Subtotal	171	177	182	154	160	197	216	204	236	64	67	72	86	70	59	73	75	74
	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
Australia	7	8	10	16	15	20	12	11	14	2		7	3	2	2	1	4	1
Austria	11	13	6	11	11	19	26	20	12	1	2	1	3	1	1		2	2
Belgium	5	5	4	7	3	4	5	4	3	1		3						
Brazil								8	8									
Canada	5	6	6	7	9	13	10	8	6	4		4		4		2	2	
Egypt			14	11	6	10	13	22	16									
China	35	26	42	40	58	68	80	94	127	2	3	3	1	1	2	1	1	1
France	6	7	2		5	10	14	7	12		2	1		1		2	3	
Germany	52	53	61	36	52	63	78	53	54	11	9	5	10	3	8	7	4	4
Greece	13	13	8	2	8	19	12	6	3	1	2	1				3		
India	19	20	27	18	22	41	24	46	32									
Iran	6	14	4	13	5	7	4	18	17									
Ireland	6	11	13	7	11	2	3	8	3	2	1	2	2		1			
Israel	6	9		6	10	13	7	9	3		2							1
Italy	26	23	17	20	23	26	24	30	28	1	4	2	1	1	2			

Japan	40	30	26	41	39	52	50	37	41	5	6	4	4	6	2	1	1		
Malaysia					7	7	8	2	4										
Poland	7	8	8	6	12	13	11	15	12		1								
Portugal					6	2	1	4	4										
Singapore						14	10	9	7								1		
Slovenia									2										
South Korea	41	46	29	62	45	53	45	33	33	1	1		2	5	3		1	1	
Spain	14	7	8	20	12	28	25	40	24	3				1			1		
Switzerland	12	12	9	11	15	14	15	16	17		1	2	3	3	1			5	
Taiwan	8	28	24	30	17	21	19	10	16	2		2	1				1		
Turkey	15	14	20	23	25	27	29	44	19									1	1
UK	78	72	80	80	84	105	85	61	50	10	12	5	6	2	9	10	11	3	
USA	24	25	18	32	38	48	58	64	42	7	8	2	2	4	9	4	5	3	
Others	34	41	66	88	88	93	88	65	41	5	3	4	1	1	1		2	6	
Total	651	677	685	741	786	989	972	940	885	122	126	120	125	105	100	105	110	102	

Table 2. Collective subscriptions

	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
Sweden	1,210	1,210	1,250	1,272	1,292	1,326	1,334	1,272	1,320
Denmark	798	817	864	885	895	903	910	910	930
The Netherlands	524	561	660	660	660	750	800	800	750
Norway	664	665	725	746	743	802	810	973	999
Finland	527	543	553	448	552	590	600	577	605
Iceland	32	32	31	31	31	31	31	23	38
Estonia					3	50	50	50	50
Total	3,755	3,868	4,133	4,092	4,176	4,452	4,535	4,605	4,692