The Open Journal of Occupational Therapy

Volume 3
Issue 1 *Winter 2015*

Article 1

1-1-2015

State of the Journal Year 2: Making Progress

Diane Powers Dirette
Western Michigan University, ot-ojot@wmich.edu

Follow this and additional works at: <https://scholarworks.wmich.edu/ojot>

Part of the [Occupational Therapy Commons](#)

Recommended Citation

Dirette, D. P. (2015) "State of the Journal Year 2: Making Progress," *The Open Journal of Occupational Therapy*: Vol. 3: Iss. 1, Article 1.
Available at: <https://doi.org/10.15453/2168-6408.1167>

This document has been accepted for inclusion in *The Open Journal of Occupational Therapy* by the editors. Free, open access is provided by ScholarWorks at WMU. For more information, please contact wmu-scholarworks@wmich.edu.

State of the Journal Year 2: Making Progress

Keywords

occupational therapy, open access, international readership

Credentials Display

Diane Powers Dirette, Ph.D., OTL

Copyright transfer agreements are not obtained by The Open Journal of Occupational Therapy (OJOT).
Reprint permission for this Letter from the Editor should be obtained from the corresponding author(s).
Click [here](#) to view our open access statement regarding user rights and distribution of this Letter from the Editor.

DOI: 10.15453/2168-6408.1167

When one is heavily involved in the day-to-day work of a project, such as editing the *Open Journal of Occupational Therapy* (OJOT), it is a good idea to pause occasionally and examine the progress that has been made. It is easy to get caught up in the “to do” lists that consume many of our daily occupations and lose sight of the journey. The yearly State of the Journal letter affords me the opportunity to take this pause, assess our progress, and contemplate our goals for the future. Winston Churchill is famously quoted on the topic of progress, stating:

Every day you make progress. Every step may be fruitful. Yet there will stretch out before you an ever-lengthening, ever-ascending, ever-improving path. You know you will never get to the end of the journey. But this, so far from discouraging, only adds to the joy and glory of the climb

(<http://www.nationalchurchillmuseum.org/wit-wisdom-quotes.html>).

Progress

With every issue, we seek to improve the journal, but we are also excited about the progress we have made thus far. We have now published OJOT quarterly for two years. In that time, we have published 43 peer-reviewed articles. The categories of those articles include 25 Applied Research, 13 Topics in Education, three Opinions in the Profession, and two Guidelines for Practice and Technological Guidelines (see Figure 1). We had 97 submissions in the last year, bringing the total number of submissions to OJOT to 166. Despite the fact that our submission rates continue to increase, we have been able to maintain a rapid

turnaround time through the peer-review process with an average of 23 days from submission to initial decision.

Figure 1. OJOT Publications by Category

The Editorial Review Board (ERB) members not only continue to review manuscripts in a timely manner, they also provide outstanding constructive advice to authors that improve each manuscript. We now have 56 members on our ERB from 23 different states and two different countries. Our acceptance rate is now at 44%. Of the manuscripts that have been published, 63% have been accepted with minor revisions and 16% with major revisions. As deemed necessary and with a referral, many authors have also taken advantage of the writing consultant services provided by OJOT. Authors who have worked with our writing consultant have been able to achieve a publication rate of 100%.

We also continue to feature artists on every cover of OJOT with an adjoining artist profile titled Occupation and the Artist. This ever-popular column provides insight to the readers about the artists' stories, methods, and interactions with art as

a therapy tool and as an occupation. We alternate our featured artists between client artists and practitioner artists and we include professional and amateur artists who create various artistic pieces using mixed materials and processes. Each of these artists gives us insight into the importance of art as an occupation.

Readership

Our readership rates continue to grow nationally and internationally. The total world-wide

number of OJOT readers has increased substantially over the last two years from 16,822 at the end of 2013 to 38,053 last month (see Figures 2 and 3). We have now had readers from 115 countries download OJOT articles. Not only has the number of readers from different countries continued to increase, but the number of readers within each country continues to increase as well, as noted by the spread and darkening of the colors on the map in figures 2 and 3.

Figure 2. Readership Map April 2013

Figure 3. Readership Map December 2014

Readers can now locate the articles published in OJOT through several search engines, direct access to the OJOT.org website, or several databases. We continue to expand this access with OJOT currently indexed in the Directory of Open Access Journals, Journals4Free, FreeMedicalJournals, OTDBase, and Cengage. In the next year, we plan to add to the indexing locations to continue to improve reader accessibility.

Future Directions

The “joy and glory” of our progress is enmeshed with the “ever-lengthening, ever-ascending, ever-improving path” we set out before us. Because OJOT is published exclusively online, we have the ability to expand and enhance our resources. In the past year, we collaborated with [MedBridge](#) to introduce Breakouts, which feature interviews with authors whose research has been published in OJOT. We plan to add numerous

Breakouts over the next year. In addition to the Breakouts, we plan to continue to increase the number of video links and color and interactive graphics embedded in the articles that we publish. We welcome authors' creative ideas for links to demonstrations of assessments, interventions, or research processes.

We also plan to introduce more creative ways to grow our sponsorships in order to keep our publication fees at a competitive rate. We are currently one of the least expensive open-access journals and we hope to maintain that status. We will introduce a graded sponsorship program that includes different levels of sponsorship, and we hope to secure a gift to name an annual award for the best student publication.

This year, we will also begin to publish the keynote and plenary speeches from the annual Barbara A. Rider Colloquium. These publications will feature some of the best and brightest in the profession of occupational therapy. Their speeches cover a wide array of topics that will be of interest to OJOT's national and international audience.

The editors and the ERB members will also continue to present information about OJOT at conferences and events. We were excited to see many of you at the American Occupational Therapy Association's 94th Annual Conference and Expo in Baltimore last spring. At that meeting, we

disseminated information about OJOT at an exposition booth and I presented information about OJOT at a writers' workshop that included writing tips from two of our ERB members, Dr. Sherrilene Classen and Dr. Rondalyn Whitney. This fall, Allison Fox, Associate Editor; Dr. Ben Atchison, Managing Editor; and I also presented information about OJOT at the annual Michigan Occupational Therapy Association Conference in Lansing, MI. Each of these opportunities gives us a chance to share the progress of OJOT and to gather ideas to further improve the journal. Dr. Classen, Dr. Whitney, and I will be presenting again at the American Occupational Therapy Association's 95th Annual Conference and Expo in Nashville, TN. We look forward to seeing you all there! In the meantime, we are eager to read your submissions and would love to hear your ideas about how we can more effectively continue our mission to provide open access to clinical solutions and educational resources through the publication of high quality articles that focus on applied research, practice, and education in the occupational therapy profession. If you have not done so already, please join our [subscriber list](#), "Like" us on [Facebook](#), and connect with us on [LinkedIn](#). As always, you can find us at OJOT.org and email us at ot-ojot@wmich.edu.