



# The Open Journal of Occupational Therapy

---

Volume 4  
Issue 1 *Winter 2016*

Article 1

---

January 2016

## State of the Journal Year 3: Finding Our Balance

Diane Powers Dirette

*Western Michigan University - USA, 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. (2016) "State of the Journal Year 3: Finding Our Balance," *The Open Journal of Occupational Therapy*: Vol. 4: Iss. 1, Article 1. Available at: <https://doi.org/10.15453/2168-6408.1247>

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](mailto:wmu-scholarworks@wmich.edu).

---

## State of the Journal Year 3: Finding Our Balance

### Keywords

occupational therapy, open access, readership, 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: 10.15453/2168-6408.1247

At the end of our third year of publication, I am excited to provide our readers with our annual *The Open Journal of Occupational Therapy* (OJOT) update. With the publication of this issue, we have now published 114 articles, including 13 Letters from the Editor, 45 articles in the Applied Research category, 25 articles in the Topics in Education category, eight articles in the Guidelines for Practice and Technological Guidelines category, nine articles in the Opinions in the Profession category, one Letters to the Editor, and 13 Occupation and the Artist profiles.

The readership of these articles continues to increase exponentially as evidenced by the significant increase in full-text downloads over the last 3 years. At the end of the first year of publication, we had 10,922 full-text downloads and by the end of the second year of publication, we had 17,903 additional full-text downloads. We now have had 89,124 total full-text downloads demonstrating a rapid increase in our readership with 51,138 full-text downloads in the past year (see Figure 1).

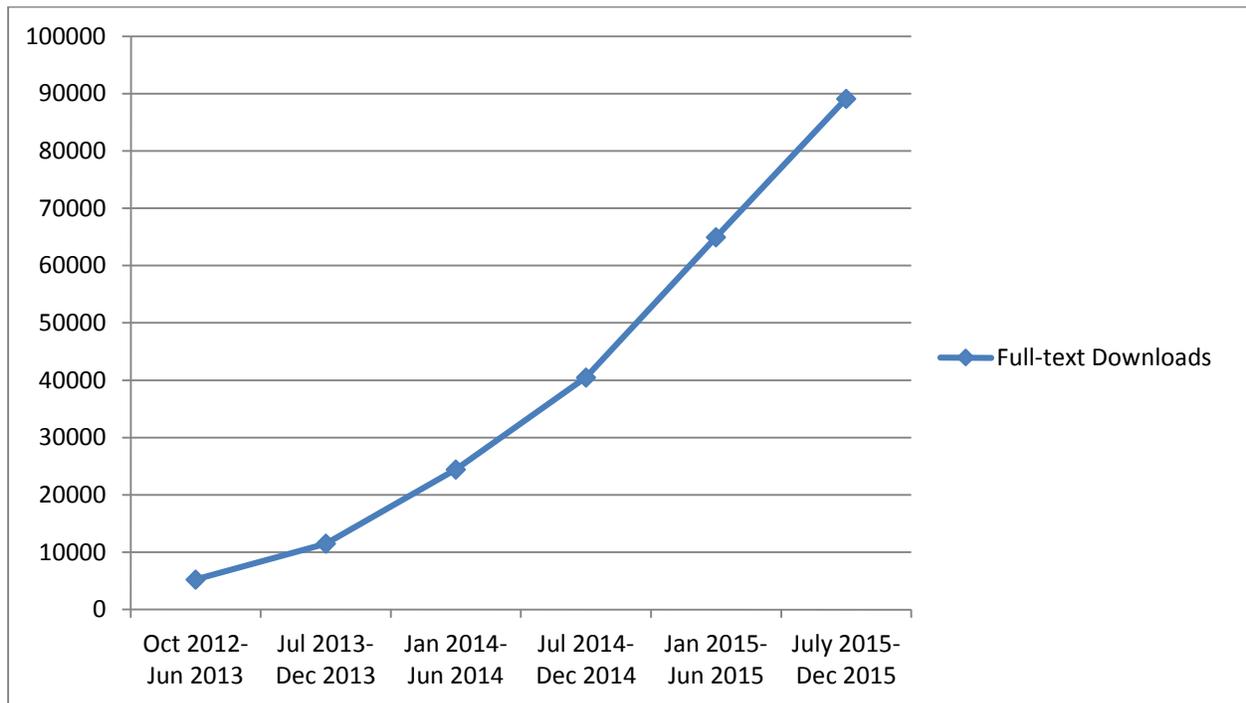


Figure 1. Increase in full-text downloads of OJOT over the last 3 years.

We are also proud of our international relationships, which continue to grow through both authorship and readership. We have published 22 articles by authors from 13 countries other than the United States, including four publications in this

issue by authors from four different countries: Brazil, Canada, Norway, and South Africa. We had OJOT readership in 83 countries by the end of the first year and we now have readership in 120 countries (see Figure 2).

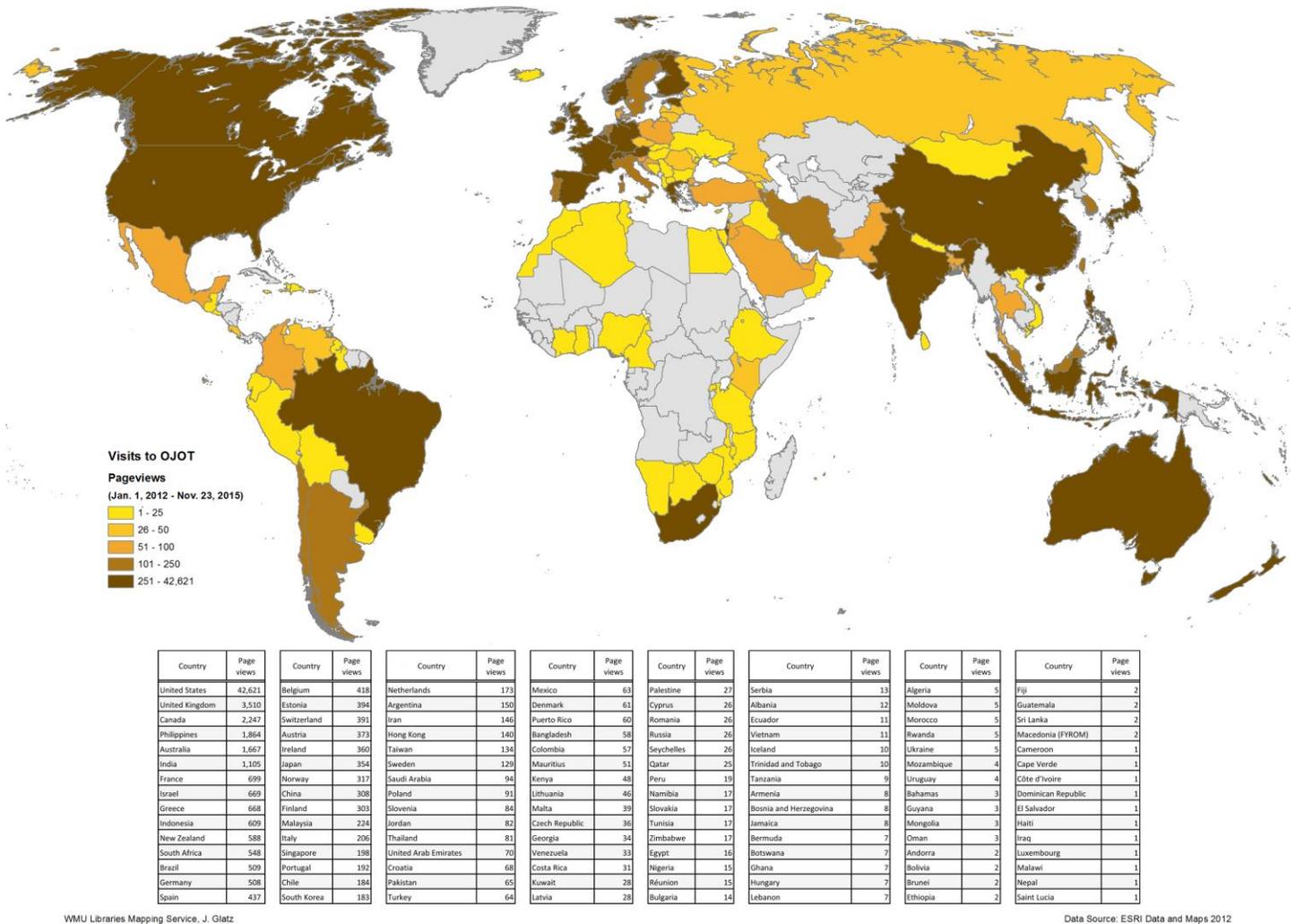


Figure 2. OJOT readership worldwide, as of 11/25/15.

We continue to expand our accessibility through indexing sources. We now index with Directory of Open Access Journals, Journals4Free, FreeMedicalJournals, OTDBASE, Cengage, EBSCO, CINAHL Complete, CINAHL Rehabilitation and Sports Medicine with library discovery platform delivery to OCLC (Worldcat), Ex Libris (Primo), ProQuest (Serial Solutions / Summon), EBSCO EJS, and library discovery listing with KBART.

The speed with which we provide feedback to authors and the acceptance rate of manuscripts

has remained fairly steady over the last two years.

Our average turnaround time from submission to initial decision is 27 days. The reviewers continue to provide excellent and thorough reviews in an expedited time frame. The acceptance rate for blind peer-reviewed manuscripts remains steady at about 46%.

### Accomplishments for the Year

This year, we published our first special issue, which was on the topic of assessment and was guided by our first guest editor, Dr. Ann Chapleau. With this issue, we introduced a new feature titled

“He Said—He Said: A Scholarly Conversation about Assessment” with Glen Gillen and Jim Hinojosa (Gillen & Hinojosa, 2015). Various forms of this type of scholarly dialog will be featured in each special issue of OJOT.

We continue to publish our ever-popular Occupation and the Artist profiles. This year we introduced you to four new artists through both the cover images and the artist profiles that accompany each cover. In alternating order, we highlight the many talents of both clients and practitioners of occupational therapy. This year we featured Jen Gash, an occupational therapist and creativity coach from the UK; Josh Banks, who uses nibs to create multicolor, abstract works; Meg Kral, an occupational therapist from Chicago who finds flow through art; and Peta Bush, who uses technology, such as 3D printing, to fabricate fashionable, wearable medical devices. In this issue, we feature the work of Lynn Davies, a Canadian occupational therapist who uses art and mindfulness strategies create balance in her occupations.

### **Finding Our Balance**

Every year we have an OJOT combined board meeting and breakfast at the annual AOTA conference and expo. During these meetings, we have discussions about the content of OJOT publications, and there are varied opinions among the board members about the aim and scope of the journal. Some board members push for the publication of high levels of evidence while others push for the publication of topics that are “edgy.” It has taken me some time to decipher the meaning of “edgy” publications, but, in general, it is the publication of content that is not necessarily a part

of the popular, mainstream practice of occupational therapy. Because the practice of occupational therapy is diverse, there are often niche areas of practice for which articles are not commonly published in the professional journals. I have done some work in these niche areas, and I know how important it is to be able to find information in the occupational therapy literature to support these areas of research and practice.

As the Editor-in-Chief of OJOT, I have used this recommendation from the board members to try to incorporate the publication of some unique areas of occupational therapy practice. For example, we have published articles about the effects of a summer camp experience for at-risk youth (Merryman, Mezei, Bush, & Weinstein, 2012), the effectiveness of a Tai Chi program for people with severe mental illness (Chapleau & Powers Dirette, 2013), the use of gardening as an intervention (Wagenfeld & Atchison, 2014), the transition to college for students with Asperger’s Disorder (Schindler, Cajjiga, Aaronson, & Salas, 2015), and a health promotion program for underserved populations using a community service learning approach (Austin-McCain, 2015). In this issue, we have published articles about occupational therapists who work in emergency departments (Chown, Soley, Moczydlowski, Chimento, & Smoyer, 2016) and a leisure-time activity program for disadvantaged youth (Bester & Kloppers, 2016).

Most occupational therapists, however, do not work in these niche areas. We must, therefore, also provide information to the OJOT readership about the most widespread areas of practice. We have worked to balance the publication of unique

aspects of our practice with the most commonly used interventions. The most commonly treated diagnosis in occupational therapy practice is cerebral vascular accidents and one of the most common areas of practice is pediatrics (<file:///C:/Users/Owner/Downloads/2012-practice-analysis-executive-otr.pdf>). The articles we publish that address these common areas of practice are well read. In our top 10 most popular articles published in OJOT are two articles about stroke rehabilitation and two articles about pediatric treatments. These articles are “Rehabilitation of the Upper Extremity after Stroke: Current Practice As a Guide for Curriculum,” by Schriener, Thome, and Carrier (2014); “Concise Arm and Hand Rehabilitation Approach in Stroke (CARAS): A Practical and Evidence-based Framework for Clinical Rehabilitation Management,” by Franck, Halfens, Smeets, and Seelen (2015); “Visual-Motor Skills Performance on the Beery-VMI: A Study of Canadian Kindergarten Children,” by Coallier, Rouleau, Bara, and Morin (2014); and “Beyond the Pencil: Expanding the Occupational Therapists’ Role in Helping Young Children to Develop Writing Skills,” by Gerde, Foster, and Skibbe (2014).

We will continue to publish articles in the categories of Applied Research, Guidelines for Practice and Technological Guidelines, and Opinions in the Profession that address these common areas of practice. In this issue, we continue to publish articles about common areas of practice with the publication of “Outcomes after Cognitive Perceptual Motor Retraining (CPM) of

Patients with Acquired Brain Injury” by Christy, Huffine, Hannah, and de Leon (2016).

### **Future Directions**

Our publication category titled Topics in Education is also a very popular feature of OJOT. With 25 publications in this category thus far, it is the second most popular publication category after Applied Research. Two of our 10 most widely read articles are in the category of Topics in Education and are “Occupational Therapy Students’ Perspectives of Professionalism: An Exploratory Study,” by Sullivan and Thiessen (2015) and “Fieldwork Educators’ Perspectives: Professional Behavior Attributes of Level II Fieldwork Students,” by Campbell et al. (2015).

Because this is such an important area for the occupational therapy profession, we will be publishing a special issue on education in the spring of 2016. This special issue will be co-edited by Dr. Barb Hooper from Colorado State University. We look forward to publishing this special issue and many more issues to come. We appreciate your submissions to OJOT that address both the unique and more common areas of occupational therapy practice and hope to continue to find a balance in the articles we publish.

**References**

- Austin-McCain, M. (2015). LifeSteps: An evidence-based health promotion program for underserved populations – A community service learning approach. *The Open Journal of Occupational Therapy*, 3(2), Article 8. <http://dx.doi.org/10.15453/2168-6408.1136>
- Bester, J., & Kloppers, M. (2016). Evaluation of outcomes associated with a leisure-time activity program for disadvantaged youth. *The Open Journal of Occupational Therapy*, 4(1), Article 9. <http://dx.doi.org/10.15453/2168-6408.1171>
- Campbell, M. K., Corpus, K., Wussow, T. M., Plummer, T., Gibbs, D., & Hix, S. (2015). Fieldwork educators' perspectives: Professional behavior attributes of Level II Fieldwork students. *The Open Journal of Occupational Therapy*, 4(1), Article 7. <http://dx.doi.org/10.15453/2168-6408.1146>
- Chapleau, A. M., & Powers Dirette, D. (2013). An evaluation of the potential effectiveness of a Tai Chi program for health promotion among people with severe mental illness. *The Open Journal of Occupational Therapy*, 1(2), Article 4. <http://dx.doi.org/10.15453/2168-6408.1036>
- Chown, G., Soley, T., Moczydlowski, S., Chimento, C., & Smoyer, A. (2016). A phenomenological study on the perception of occupational therapists practicing in the emergency department. *The Open Journal of Occupational Therapy*, 4(1), Article 3. <http://dx.doi.org/10.15453/2168-6408.1126>
- Christy, K., Huffine, N., Hannah, T., & de Leon, M. B. (2016). Outcomes after cognitive perceptual motor retraining (CPM) of patients with acquired brain injury. *The Open Journal of Occupational Therapy*, 4(1), Article 2. <http://dx.doi.org/10.15453/2168-6408.1076>
- Coallier, M., Rouleau, N., Bara, F., & Morin, M-F. (2014). Visual-motor skills performance on the Berry-VMI: A study of Canadian kindergarten children. *The Open Journal of Occupational Therapy*, 2(2), Article 4. <http://dx.doi.org/10.15453/2168-6408.1074>
- Franck, J. A., Halfens, J., Smeets, R., & Seelen, H. (2015). Concise Arm and Hand Rehabilitation Approach in Stroke (CARAS): A practical and evidence-based framework for clinical rehabilitation management. *The Open Journal of Occupational Therapy*, 3(4), Article 10. <http://dx.doi.org/10.15453/2168-6408.1164>
- Gerde, H. K., Foster, T. D., & Skibbe, L. E. (2014). Beyond the pencil: Expanding the occupational therapists' role in helping young children to develop writing skills. *The Open Journal of Occupational Therapy*, 2(1), Article 5. <http://dx.doi.org/10.15453/2168-6408.1070>
- Gillen, G., & Hinojosa, J. (2015). He said—he said: A scholarly conversation about assessment. *The Open Journal of Occupational Therapy*, 3(3), Article 10. <http://dx.doi.org/10.15453/2168-6408.1198>
- Merryman, M., Mezei, A., Bush, J. A., & Weinstein, M. (2012). The effects of a summer camp experience on factors of resilience in at-risk youth. *The Open Journal of Occupational Therapy*, 1(1), Article 3. <http://dx.doi.org/10.15453/2168-6408.1016>
- Schindler, V., Cajiga, A., Aaronson, R., & Salas, L. (2015). The experience of transition to college for students diagnosed with Asperger's Disorder. *The Open Journal of Occupational Therapy*, 3(1), Article 2. <http://dx.doi.org/10.15453/2168-6408.1128>
- Schriner, M., Thome, J., & Carrier, M. (2014). Rehabilitation of the upper extremity after stroke: Current practice as a guide for curriculum. *The Open Journal of Occupational Therapy*, 2(1), Article 6. <http://dx.doi.org/10.15453/2168-6408.1056>
- Sullivan, T. M., & Thiessen, A. K. (2016). Occupational therapy students' perspectives of professionalism: An exploratory study. *The Open Journal of Occupational Therapy*, 4(1).
- Wagenfeld, A., & Atchison, B. (2014). "Putting the occupation back in occupational therapy": A survey of occupational therapy practitioners' use of gardening as an intervention. *The Open Journal of Occupational Therapy*, 2(4), Article 4. <http://dx.doi.org/10.15453/2168-6408.1128>