



1-1-2017

State of the Journal Year 4: Mapping Our Progress

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DOI: 10.15453/2168-6408.1377

Recommended Citation

Dirette, D. P. (2017) "State of the Journal Year 4: Mapping Our Progress," *The Open Journal of Occupational Therapy*: Vol. 5: Iss. 1, Article 1. Available at: <https://doi.org/10.15453/2168-6408.1377>

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State of the Journal Year 4: Mapping Our Progress

Keywords

global connection, readership, shared knowledge

A map is “a symbolic depiction highlighting relationships between elements of some space, such as objects, regions, and themes” (“Map”, n.d.). Maps connect us globally and give us a view of the topography of the world. “A map does not just chart, it unlocks and formulates meaning; it forms bridges between here and there, between disparate ideas that we did not know were previously connected” (Larsen, 2009, p. 136).

In my work as the Editor-in-Chief of the *Open Journal of Occupational Therapy* (OJOT), almost every morning begins for me with a view of the world map at the bottom of the OJOT.org website. As I look at the map, I am reminded of a joke from one of my favorite comedians, Steven Wright, who said, “I have an existential map. It has

'You are here' written all over it” (n.d.). OJOT is everywhere.

Two aspects of the map always amaze me: the number of manuscripts that are downloaded in each 24 hr period and the global connection of the profession of occupational therapy (OT). The map unlocks and formulates meaning about the interests occupational therapists have in various parts of the world. It forms bridges between here and there by showing the commonalities that exist worldwide in the profession of OT and the shared experiences and ideas. The importance of clinical solutions and educational resources in all aspects of physical, mental, and social arenas addressed by OT is common around the world (see Figure 1). OT is everywhere.

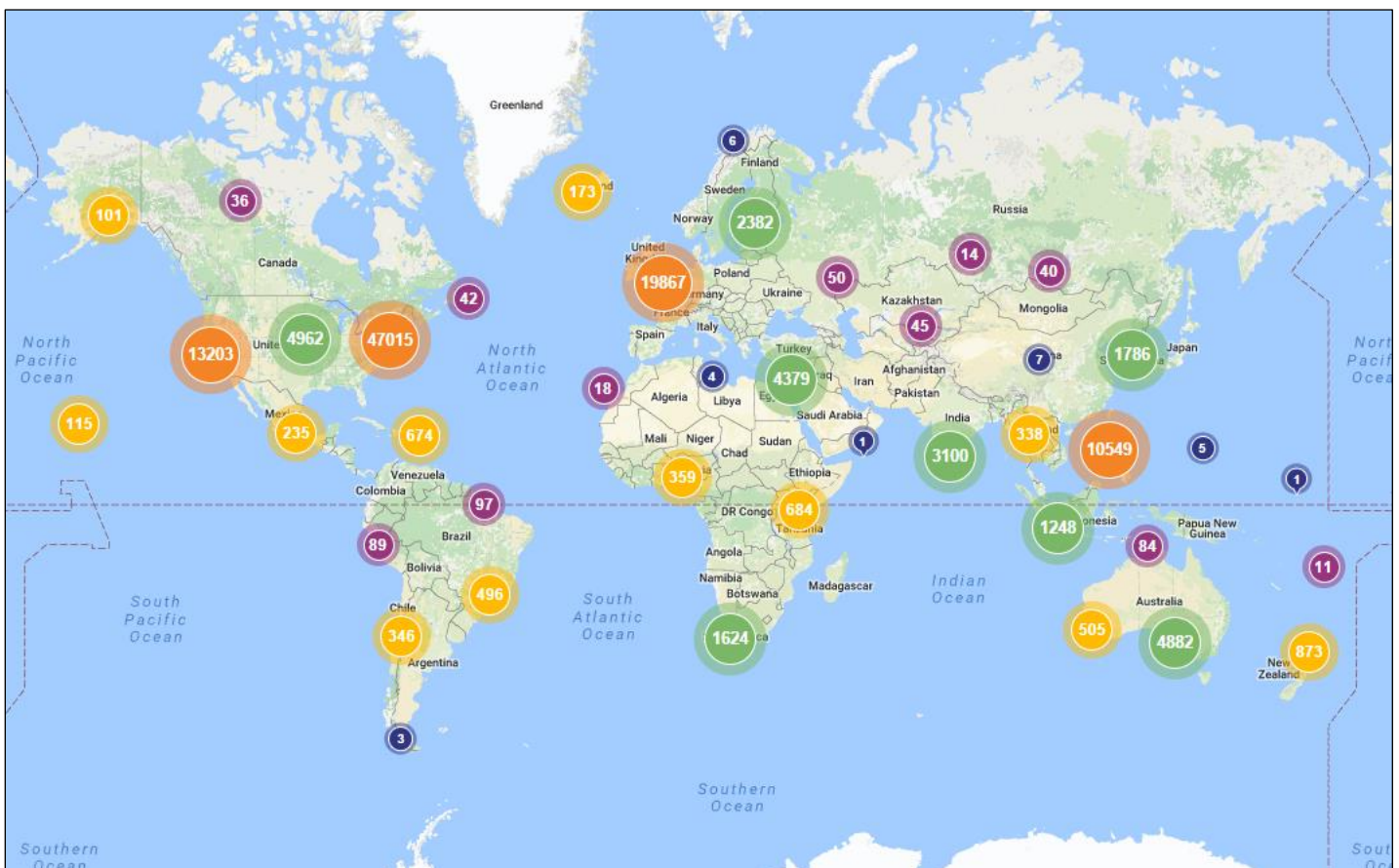


Figure 1. Worldwide OJOT Downloads as of 12/21/16

Readership Distribution

Full-text OJOT articles have been downloaded in 181 of the 195 countries in the world (see Figure 2). Fewer than 50% of those downloads are from the United States, the country in which OJOT is published (click [here](#) to view the growth of international readership distribution). In addition to the widespread readership, many researchers from varied countries continue to submit and publish

their work in OJOT. The authors of the articles that have been published are from 12 different countries. To date, the most popular article published in OJOT is an applied research article from Canada titled “Visual-Motor Skills Performance on the Beery-VMI: A Study of Canadian Kindergarten Children” by Coallier, Rouleau, Bara, and Morin (2014). This article has had 15,693 full-text downloads.

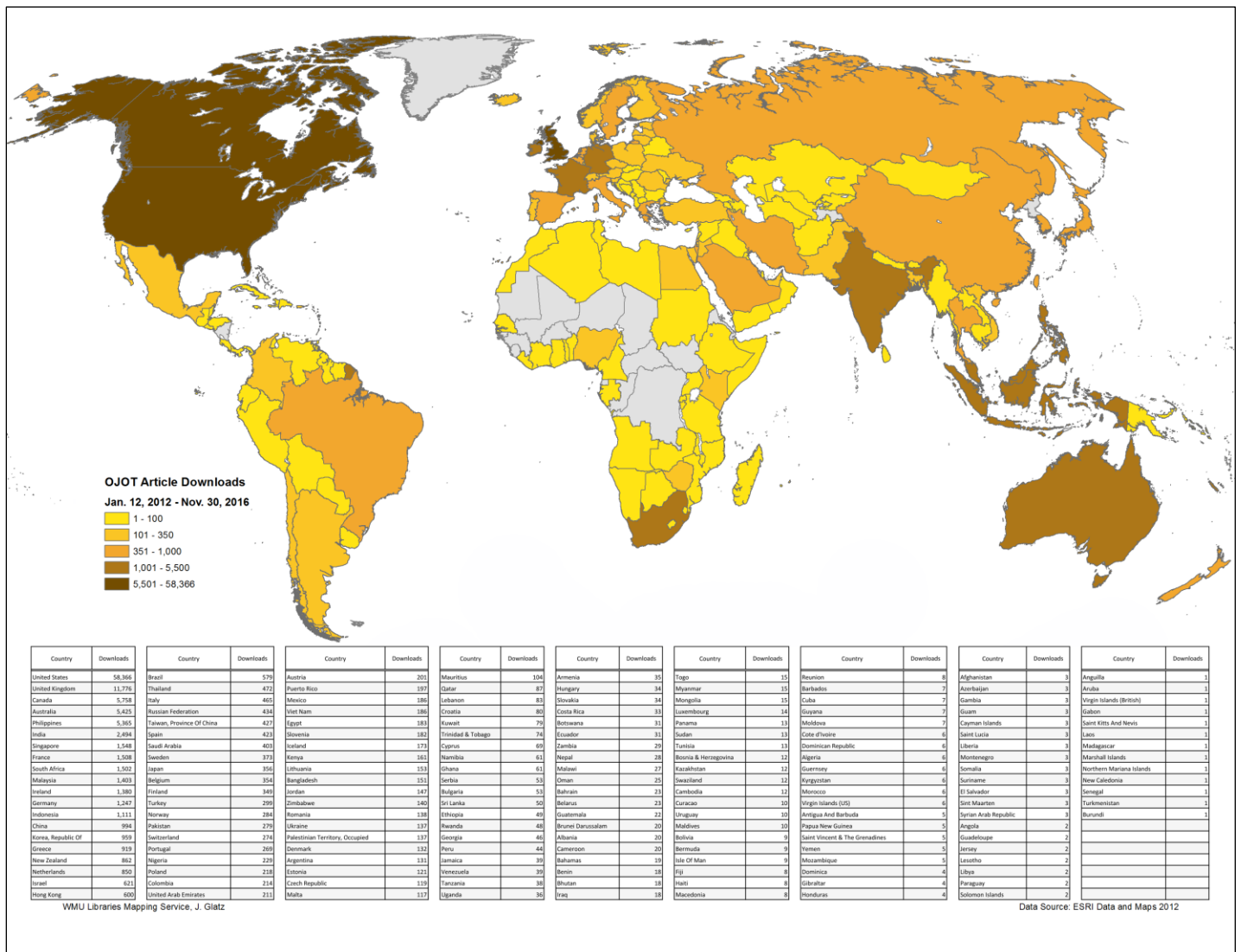


Figure 2. Worldwide OJOT Readership Distribution as of 11/30/16

There are also widespread downloads from different institutions. To date, 6,391 different institutions have downloaded full-text OJOT

articles. Of those institutions, 61% are education, 22% commercial, 8% government, and 6% organizations. The remaining percentages are

divided among military, library, and other institutions, each comprising less than 1%. The most common means for accessing OJOT articles is Google. Of the 3,002 pathways that have been used to access OJOT, most of them are Google sites, such as Google U.S., Google U.K., Google Australia, and Google Scholar. Many people also access articles through OJOT.org. Other pathways include Facebook, Bing, LinkedIn, Ask.com, Yahoo, Google Translate, libraries, and websites such as cheleyfoundation.org for at risk youth, medbridgeeducation.com, and several certified occupational therapy assistant websites. Some

articles are also accessed using digital object identifiers (DOIs). It is surprising that very few of the indexing sites, such as DOAJ and Crossref, with whom we are indexed, are used to access the articles published in OJOT.

Readership Numbers

The OJOT readership also continues to accelerate (see Figure 3). It took 3.5 years to attain 100,000 full-text downloads of OJOT articles, but there have been 73,147 new full-text downloads in the past year alone. The total full-text downloads is now 162,572 with a current average of almost 300 downloads per day.

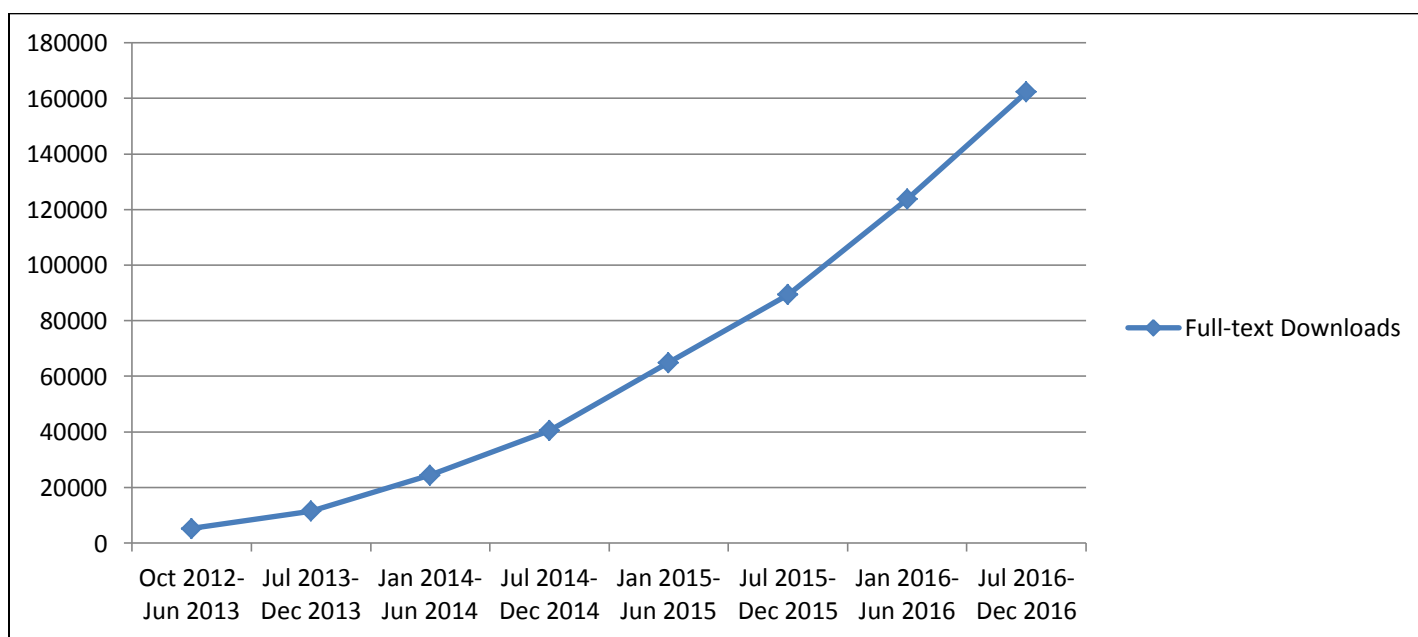


Figure 3. Frequency of OJOT Downloads

Among all these numbers and facts about the success of OJOT, it is also important to reflect on the knowledge that is being shared among occupational therapists throughout the world. According to Harvey (2001),

a map has no vocabulary, no lexicon of precise meanings. It communicates in lines,

hues, tones, coded symbols, and empty spaces, much like music. Nor does a map have its own voice. It is many-tongued, a chorus reciting centuries of accumulated knowledge in echoed chants. (p. 38)

While the maps demonstrate the ongoing success of the journal in numbers, the content of the

knowledge cannot be illustrated. More important than the numbers reflected in the maps is the shared knowledge that impacts OT clinical practice and education. These maps illustrate shared interests, commonalities, and a profound connection to other occupational therapists throughout the world. OJOT plans to continue to grow and to foster the global network of occupational therapists. We encourage readership and submissions from every country and look forward with great anticipation to this shared learning experience.

Diane Powers Durette, Ph.D., OTL, FAOTA is the cofounder of OJOT and has served as Editor-in-Chief since the first issue was published in the fall of 2012. She is a professor in the Department of Occupational Therapy at Western Michigan University and was inducted into the American Occupational Therapy Association Roster of Fellows in 2016. Her areas of research include self awareness after acquired brain injury, evidenced-based practice, visual disorders, and cognitive rehab. She has extensive experience with scholarly writing, editing, and publishing.

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