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State of the Journal: Moving Forward

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State of the Journal: Moving Forward

Keywords

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Credentials Display

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It has been another wonderful year for *The Open Journal of Occupational Therapy* (OJOT). In the words of Walt Disney, “We keep moving forward, opening new doors, and doing new things, because we're curious, and curiosity keeps leading us down new paths” (<https://www.goodreads.com/quotes/656385>). In the last year, we celebrated reaching the milestone of over 300,000 full-text downloads, expanded our international exchange, and planned the future directions of the journal.

As we celebrate the continued expanding readership of OJOT, I would like to acknowledge the top 10 most downloaded OJOT articles (see Table 1). These articles demonstrate the diversity of topics and research that OJOT publishes. They include the following in order of the number of downloads.

Table 1

Top 10 Most Downloaded OJOT Articles

Title	Downloads
“Visual-Motor Skills Performance on the Beery-VMI: A Study of Canadian Kindergarten Children” (Coallier, Rouleau, Bara, & Morin, 2014)	20,822
“Art in Occupational Therapy: An Introduction to Occupation and the Artist” (Bathje, 2012)	18,059
“Rehabilitation of the Upper Extremity after Stroke: Current Practice As a Guide for Curriculum” (Schriner, Thome, & Carrier, 2014)	15,418
“Beyond the Pencil: Expanding the Occupational Therapists’ Role in Helping Young Children to Develop Writing Skills” (Gerde, Foster, & Skibbe, 2014)	10,240
“Choosing the Path of Leadership in Occupational Therapy” (Heard, 2014)	9,413
“The Effects of a Summer Camp Experience on Factors of Resilience in At-Risk Youth” (Merryman, Mezei, Bush, & Weinstein, 2012)	8,934
“Promoting Client Goal Ownership in a Clinical Setting” (VanPuymbrouck, 2014)	6,969
“‘Putting the Occupation Back in Occupational Therapy’: A Survey of Occupational Therapy Practitioners’ Use of Gardening as an Intervention” (Wagenfeld & Atchison, 2014)	6,673
“Examining the Purdue Pegboard Test for Occupational Therapy Practice” (Lindstrom-Hazel & Veenstra, 2015)	6,327
“Spiritual Assessments in Occupational Therapy” (Hemphill, 2015)	4,905

Readership

Readers from all over the world are accessing OJOT articles. Full-text articles have been downloaded 327,647 times in 196 countries. The top 10 countries for downloads are the United States, the United Kingdom, Canada, Australia, the Philippines, India, South Africa, Ireland, Singapore, and France, in that order. See Figure 1 for the distribution of world readership.

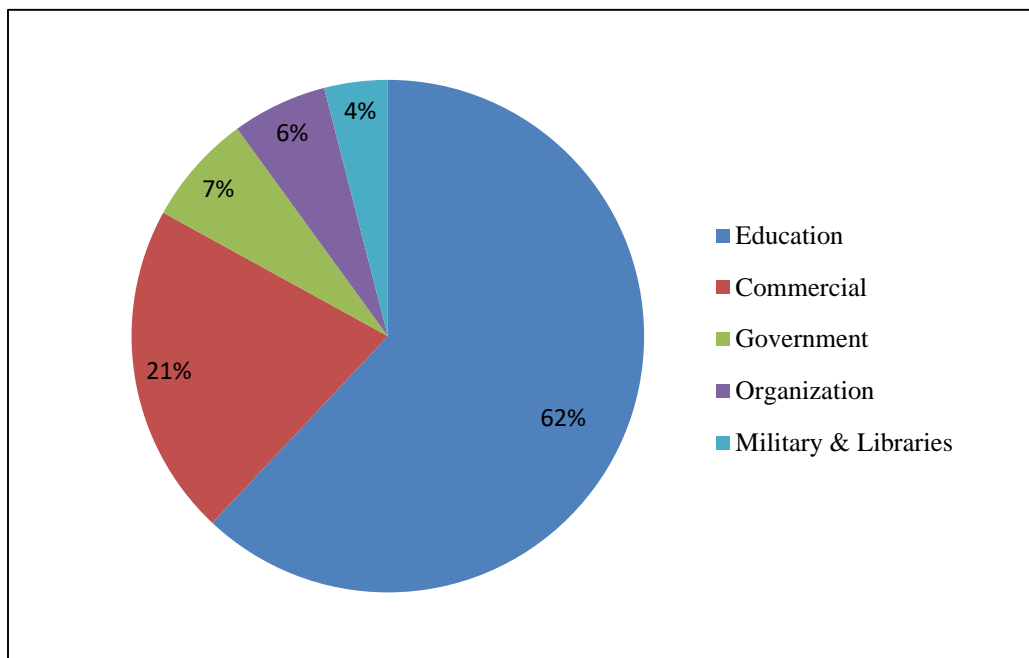


Figure 2. Downloads of OJOT articles by institution type.

Spreading the Word about OJOT

We have worked diligently to spread the word about OJOT and to develop our international exchange. In the last year, we had a presence at three conferences. In April, we once again had an informative booth at the 2018 American Occupational Therapy Association Annual Conference and Exposition in Salt Lake City, Utah. In May, I presented a poster at the 2018 World Federation of Occupational Therapists Congress in Cape Town, South Africa. At this conference, I exchanged ideas with occupational therapy colleagues from around the world, and I also had the opportunity to connect with occupational therapists from Belgium, who invited me to be a keynote speaker at their September 2018 research conference, titled Occupational Therapy Research Symposium: Creating Connections—Building Bridges, in Lueven, Belgium. At this symposium, I presented a keynote address, titled “Publishing OT Research: Challenges and Opportunities,” and a workshop, titled “Tips for Successful Scholarly Publication”. I also discussed research ideas with other international presenters and listened to research presentations from several doctoral students who are up-and-coming researchers in the profession of occupational therapy.

Future Directions

To continue to expand our international exchange, OJOT will feature a special section in the Summer 2019 issue focused on international occupational therapy. Dr. Suzanne Martin, Head of the School of Health Sciences at Ulster University in Ireland, will serve as the section guest editor. The section will include articles from and about occupational therapy practice and education in countries from around the globe.

As always, we appreciate all of the support we receive from the OJOT sponsors, board members, reviewers, and readers. We look forward to receiving your submissions and your feedback about how to improve the content and quality of the articles to bolster the scholarly exchange among occupational therapists. And, finally, we plan to continue to provide open access to clinical solutions and educational resources that support the profession of occupational therapy.

Diane Powers Dirette, 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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