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State of the Journal: 400,000 and Growing

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As we begin the year 2020, I am happy to report on the state of *The Open Journal of Occupational Therapy* (OJOT). The journal began with its first publication in the Fall of 2012. It has since grown with an increasing number of downloads, submissions, and citations, and it continues to build momentum through the collaboration of people who serve to make OJOT an outstanding peer-reviewed, open-access journal with a mission to publish high-quality articles that focus on applied research, practice, and education in the occupational therapy profession. This Winter issue is the first in our 8th volume.

Downloads

We have all heard the expression “If I had a dollar for every time someone” Well, if I had a dollar for every time someone downloaded a full-text OJOT article, I would have over \$400,000 dollars. With that money, I could buy a personal robot (Bilton, 2010), a two-bedroom condominium inside the Washington D.C. beltway (Lerner, 2019), two Lambroghini Urus, a F-35 fighter jet helmet (Moynihan, 2016), or a small costal island. If I gave away a dollar for every time someone downloaded a full-text OJOT article, I could give a dollar to every person who pledged to storm Area 51 last September (Poff, 2019), or to every person who lives in New Orleans, Louisiana (United States Census Bureau, 2018).

The international outreach of OJOT also continues to expand. OJOT has now been downloaded in 199 countries around the world, clearly exceeding our initial expectation of 15 countries. Because OJOT is open-access and because of the continued expansion of Internet access and translation software, the articles published in OJOT are able to provide clinical solutions and educational resources to occupational therapists who might otherwise not have access. Figure 1 provides a visual display of the ever-expanding international reach of OJOT.

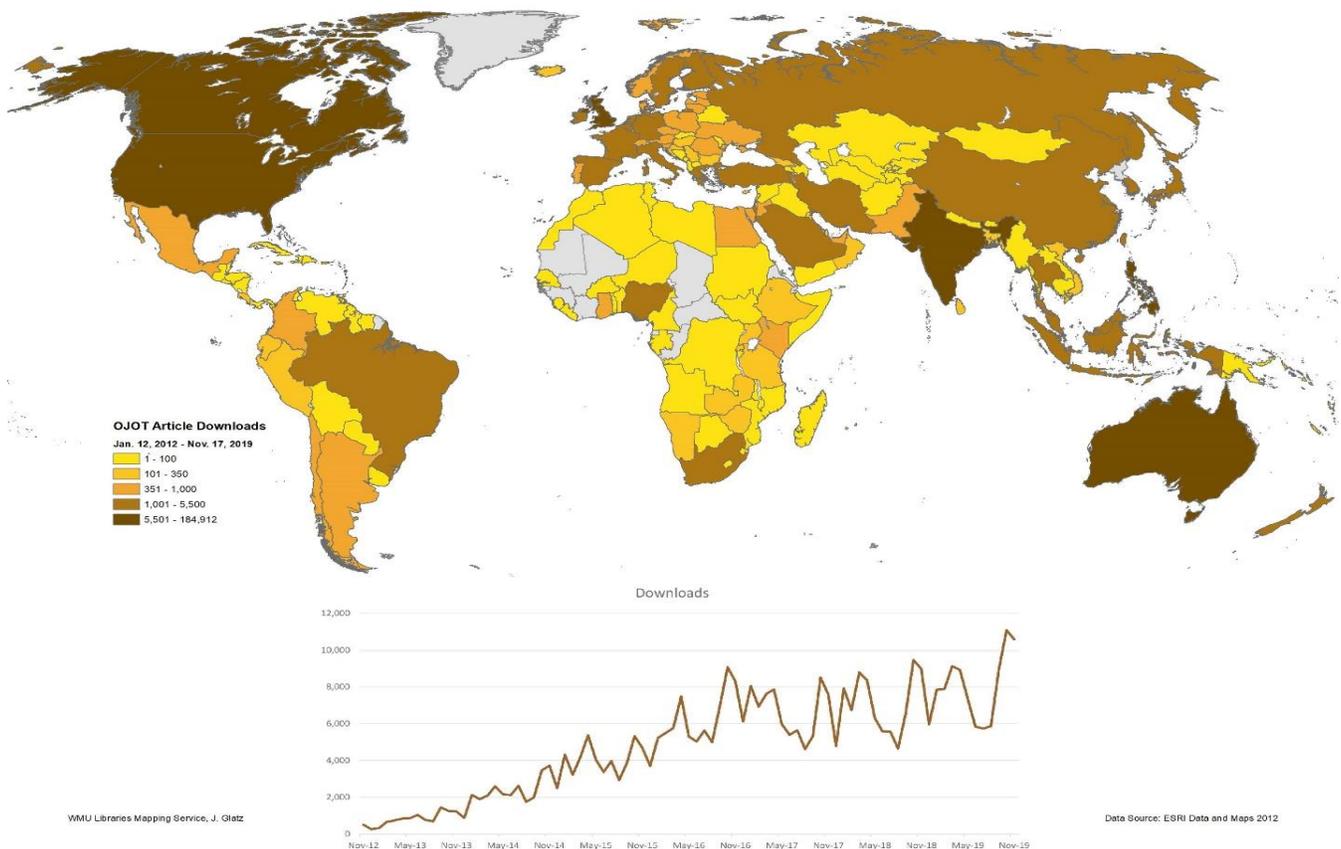


Figure 1. Map of OJOT downloads.

Submissions

There have now been over 700 submissions to OJOT. Of those 700 manuscripts, we have published 327 articles, including the Letters from the Editor and the Occupation and the Artist profiles. All of the articles published in the Applied Research, Topics in Education, Guidelines for Practice and Technological Guidelines, and Opinions in the Profession categories are double-blind peer-reviewed. The Occupation and the Artist articles are reviewed by the editors and the Letters from the Editor are reviewed by a member of the editorial board or advisory board.

The OJOT editorial board has made several improvements to our processes and the clarity of our website to maintain the integrity of the journal by following International Committee of Medical Journal Editors (ICMJE) recommendations. The editorial board and editorial review board members are dedicated to publishing high quality articles and continuing to maintain high standards for manuscripts that are reviewed and published in OJOT. Not only do the members of the editorial boards provide detailed, thorough feedback in their areas of expertise, they do so in a timely manner. The average turnaround time from submission to the first decision on the last 100 manuscripts that were reviewed was 26.84 days. Because of the continued growth in submissions, the OJOT acceptance rate has continued to go down. Of the last 100 submissions, the acceptance rate was 38%.

Citations

Impact factors are based on citations of articles that are published in a journal. The OJOT editors are still in the process of applying for an official impact factor from Web of Science. In the meantime, we are able to calculate a Google Scholar impact factor. All 168 peer-reviewed articles that were published from 2012 to 2017 were included in the analysis. The average number of times those articles in that time frame had been cited as of October 2019 was 4.26.

An H-index (also referred to as a Hirsch index) is a metric used to measure the impact of an individual researcher or of a scholarly journal (Suzuki, 2012). The H-index is calculated using the intersection at the maximum value of h at which point the author or journal has published h papers that have each been cited at least h times (McDonald, 2005). The index was created to improve on measures that only consider the total number of citations or publications. For the same time frame as analyzed above, 2012 to 2017, the OJOT H-index as of October 2019 was 3.00.

Board Members

I am grateful every day for the people who work so diligently with me to make OJOT an outstanding publication. Our Associate Editor, Allison Chamberlain Miller; Managing Editor, Dr. Ben Atchison; Art Editor, Jennifer Fortuna; and Copy Editor, Dr. Cynthia Klekar-Cunningham; work together to form an outstanding team of dedicated, hard-working, and competent professionals who maintain the high quality of OJOT publications and support one another to foster a cohesive and productive atmosphere. In addition, the advisory board, editorial board, and editorial review board all provide oversight, input, and support on a regular basis. Because of our continued growth, we added numerous outstanding editorial review board members this year.

A special thank you is always warranted for Drs. Barb Rider and Fred Sammons for their continued support. Not only do they support OJOT financially, but they also serve on the advisory board and provide encouragement and input on ideas that continue to improve the journal. I am personally grateful for them every day.

I look forward to another year of working with these amazing people. I enthusiastically read and respond to all submissions and look forward to the continued contributions that serve to improve the profession of occupational therapy. Happy New Year!

Diane Powers Dirette, PhD, OTR, FAOTA is a professor in the Department of Occupational Therapy at Western Michigan University. She earned her bachelor's degree at Eastern Michigan University and her master's and doctorate degrees at New York University, studying occupational therapy at all levels. She has published in national and international journals and has presented at local, regional, national, and international conferences. She has served on the editorial boards of numerous journals in the health professions and is the coeditor of the textbooks, Conditions in Occupational Therapy: Effect on Occupational Performance and Occupational Therapy for Physical Dysfunction. She is the cofounder and Editor-in-Chief of The Open Journal of Occupational Therapy. Dr. Dirette was inducted to the American Occupational Therapy Association Roster of Fellows in 2016.

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