State of the Journal: The First Year

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State of the Journal: The First Year

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Thank you to everyone who has contributed to making the first year of the Open Journal of Occupational Therapy (OJOT) a success. During this year, we have grown in our outreach in national and international settings, increased our staff and board members, and, most important, published high quality, scholarly articles that are openly accessible. As stated in my initial letter from the editor, “The purpose of OJOT is to provide the occupational therapy profession with a peer-reviewed, open access journal that publishes high quality articles with a focus on applied research, practice, and education related to the profession of occupational therapy” (Dirette, 2012, p. 1).

The sum of the publications from our first year includes 11 applied research articles, eight topics in education articles, three opinions in the profession articles, four letters from the editor, and four occupation and the artist articles. During the first year, we did not publish any articles in the category of Guidelines for Practice and Technological Guidelines, but with this issue, we are excited to share the first publication in this category.

All of the OJOT articles have been published online and with open access. Publishing online has allowed us to provide scholarly information in a rapid, environmentally friendly format to a global audience. Open access is a publishing method that allows unrestricted online access to articles published in scholarly journals (Laasko et al., 2011). This open access has afforded us the ability to foster a national and an international audience.

Impact and Indexing

When we first decided to make OJOT an open access, online journal, we thought this would allow us to have an impact in several countries. Our vision was for OJOT to provide up-to-date scholarly occupational therapy research and innovative practice ideas to readers worldwide, “free of charge regardless of professional affiliation” (Dirette, 2012, p. 3). With that in mind, we thought we might realistically reach ten to 15 countries. By the time we published our second issue, we had downloads from 49 countries. We now have international readers from 83 countries, with visits to OJOT.org from 95 countries and counting (see Figure 1). As of last month, the total full-text, worldwide downloads for OJOT was 10,922 and the total metadata page hits was 16,822.

In addition to the widespread downloads, we have grown in our outreach to readers through an online subscriber list and social media. We now have 1,238 subscribers who receive notification each time we publish a new issue. We have 2,913 connections on LinkedIn and 405 contacts on Facebook. Through these connections, we are able to provide information to hundreds of occupational therapists with a single post.

To enhance the ability of researchers to locate OJOT articles, OJOT is currently registered with several online indexing sources, including Journals4Free, FreeMedicalJournals, the Directory of Open Access Journals, and OTDbase. Many traditional search engines, such as AGELINE, Cengage, CINAHL, MEDLINE, OT search, Ovid, PsycINFO, and RECAL Bibliographic Database require one year of publication before applications
can be filed for indexing. With our one year now completed, we are working diligently on this process and expect to be indexed with several more search engines in the near future.

There have been several inquiries about the impact factor of OJOT. Because an official impact factor relies on citations of articles published in OJOT, we will not have an official impact rating for a couple of years.

**Publication**

The OJOT submission, review, and publication processes are all conducted online. This allows us not only to provide scholarly information in a rapid, environmentally friendly format but also to send authors expedited decisions regarding the acceptance or rejection of the manuscripts they have submitted to OJOT. The mean length of time from submission to the initial decision, including the peer-review process, for manuscripts that were submitted to OJOT in the past year was 24.58 days.

As the quality of the submissions to OJOT has continued to improve, the acceptance rate has increased to 62.5%. Of the peer-reviewed manuscripts that were accepted for publication
during the first year, 75% have required minor revisions and 25% have required major revisions. The number of submissions received continues to grow each month and we have begun to receive international submissions, as well.

**Staffing**

To maintain a quality journal and to accommodate the growing rate of submissions, OJOT has increased the number of staff members who assist with the publication process. Our staff now includes an Editor-in-Chief, an Associate Editor, a Managing Editor, an Art Editor, a Copy Editor, and a Writing Consultant. Our Writing Consultant was hired this year to assist authors with the writing quality of their manuscripts. Thanks to the generous sponsorship of Fred Sammons, we are able to offer this service free of charge to authors whose manuscripts are accepted for publication, but which require revisions to the writing aspect.

In addition to the Advisory and Editorial Board members who have continued to serve OJOT, we have added many new Editorial Review Board members this year. Currently, the board has 48 members from 22 states and 2 foreign countries. Because of the stellar work of this community of scholars and their timely peer reviews of manuscripts, we have been able to maintain our rapid turnaround time on submission decisions.

**Unique Features of OJOT**

To promote art in occupational therapy, each issue of OJOT features a piece of visual artwork on the cover. This feature includes artwork from both the consumers of occupational therapy services and the practitioners who pursue artistic endeavors. These covers are archived at OJOT.org, which allows them to stay accessible to readers even after they are featured on the cover. An article titled “Occupation and the Artist,” which is “an exploration of the artist’s life or practice experience and the occupational foundations of art in each artist’s life (Bathje, 2012, p. 1)” accompanies each cover. This very popular feature of OJOT has created an opportunity for dialog about the use of art in occupational therapy. Since Volume 1, Issue 2, we have also added videotaped profiles of each artist.

In addition to the artwork on the cover and the occupation and the artist articles, we have been fortunate to have several sponsors featured on the cover of OJOT. Each issue includes an article that profiles up to two sponsors. Our first issue featured Drs. Barbara Rider and, Fred Sammons. We have also featured Lela Llorens, Lyla Spelbring, and Ms. Marion R. Spear as legacy sponsors. In this issue our featured sponsor is Rush University. We have also created a sponsor profile gallery, similar to our artist gallery, which allows people to access past sponsors’ stories.

**Future Directions**

OJOT is published exclusively online, allowing us the ability not only to publish art on the cover but also to publish elaborate graphs, photographs, and video presentations. We are planning to expand the use of video links in the future. We hope to help authors create video links that will aid readers to better understand the information that is presented in the written articles through the demonstration of assessments, treatments, and research methods. We are also planning to create an App for OJOT that will give
readers easier accessibility to our website on mobile devices.

Thank you for your continued interest in and support of OJOT. We are looking forward to reading your submissions, hearing your opinions, and continuing to provide open access to clinical solutions and educational resources. All manuscripts should be submitted online at www.OJOT.org.
References

