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Received 30 January 2013; in final form 30 January 2013

Submission and publication. In 2012, we had 234 submissions, an almost 7% decrease from the record in 2011. However, the overall trend in recent years has been a significant increase in submissions, and in response to this, our rejection rate has also increased to ~55%. A high rejection rate is needed to ensure the continued high level of scholarship in the published product, although the journal will continue to consider a possible expansion of the number of issues from the current 9 per year to 10 or possibly 12. In 2012, we published 95 research papers, reviews, and commentaries.

Handling time. For papers received between October 2011 and September 2012, the median time to send a first decision to authors, including peer review, was 42 days, and 85% of first decisions were sent within 72 days. The median time from acceptance to publication online is ~6 weeks.

Access. The provisional figure for the number of institutions paying for access to the whole journal has decreased by ~3.5% compared with the same figure in 2011. However, 1602 institutions in developing countries have registered for free or deeply discounted access. The number of downloads of full texts of papers downloaded from the online edition is the equivalent of >1300 each working day. This continues to increase as people generally convert to online access.

Sources. The leading sources of submissions, by address of first author, were USA (45 papers), UK (22), Germany (21), France (14), Canada (13), Sweden (12), and Italy (11). US submissions were substantially down from 2011, whereas a marked increase was seen from Germany. The regional distributions were Europe 54% (12% up on 2011), North America 25% (8% down from 2011), East Asia and Australasia 12%, and the rest of the world 9%. At 21%, the fraction of papers submitted from outside Europe and North America was slightly down since the mid-2000s, but still showing increased interest in publication from the developing economies.

Journal impact. The Thomson Scientific Journal Impact Factor (JIF) has many limitations as a true indicator of impact in the real world, as discussed in a commentary in 2008 (Ogden and Bartley, 2008). It is, however, widely used. Our JIF for 2011 (announced in the middle of 2012) was 1.95, slightly lower than the record level for the previous year.

Processing. The Chief Editor and team of 13 Assistant Editors coordinated the collection of ~450 reviews from ~325 reviewers.

Corresponding information for 2011 is given by Ogden (2012).

REFERENCES


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