Editorial

TREVOR OGDEN

Editor-in-Chief, Annals of Occupational Hygiene, British Occupational Hygiene Society, Pride Park, Derby DE24 8LZ, UK

Number of submissions: In 2008 we had 195 submissions, which is a record. The leading sources of submissions, by address of first author, were US (47 papers), Sweden and UK (14 each), Germany (13), Canada and Taiwan (11 each) and France (10).

Handling time: For papers received between October 2007 and September 2008, the median time to send a first decision to authors, including peer review, was 6.7 weeks, and 85% of first decisions were sent within 10.2 weeks. The corresponding figures for the previous 12 months were 6.3 and 10.1 weeks (Ogden, 2008). This is much faster than most journals in our field.

Publication time: Currently, papers are usually published online 6–10 weeks after receipt of the final version of the paper, and they usually appear in the online edition of an issue 9–13 weeks after receipt. Note that these are times from arrival of the final version—times from acceptance are shorter.

Rejection rate: For submissions in this period, our rejection rate was ~45%, compared with ~51% in the previous 12 months. There is no right rejection rate—the decrease may mean that we were slightly less strict, but it may mean that submissions were of a higher quality.

Journal Impact Factor: Our 2007 Thomson Scientific Journal Impact Factor, announced in mid-2008, was 1.49, compared with 1.91 for 2006 and 1.14 for 2005. As discussed by Ogden and Bartley (2008), for journals like ours, there are important sources of random variation of the impact factor, and these values are all within 2 SDs of a long-term upward trend.

Circulation: The provisional figure for the number of institutions paying for access to the whole journal in 2008 was 20% more than in 2007, more than twice as many as in 2005 and almost 10 times the 2001 figure. In addition, over a 1000 institutions in developing countries got free or deeply discounted access. The number of full texts of papers downloaded from the online edition in 2008 was 322 085, an increase of 11% on 2007.

REFERENCES