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EDITORIAL

JOSIS publishes two issues per year. The first JOSIS issue was July–December 2010. This latest issue, January–June 2012, is the fourth and marks the second anniversary of JOSIS.

Being a free and open-access journal affords JOSIS much more flexibility than the commercial publishers, for example in increasing the number of issues in the future if we require it. However, even though stability in the number of issues per year is not directly related to the *quality* of a journal, maintaining the regularity of issues (and in fact having “issues” at all) is one factor that contributes to the *prestige* of a journal.

The distinction between quality and prestige is an important one to open access journals. In Peter Suber’s words, it is the difference between “real excellence” and “reputed excellence” [3]. At JOSIS we are very proud of our “real excellence” (quality). I firmly believe JOSIS articles are already comparable in quality to the most prestigious journals in our field. Our rapid and high quality review process, open access policy and discussion forum, outstanding editorial board, and high quality submissions have all been factors in establishing and maintaining JOSIS’s “real excellence.”

Some objective indicators of our high quality processes and publications can be found in our latest journal metrics. As of June 2012, we have accepted 16 out of 50 submissions (an acceptance rate of slightly under 1 in 3); our average time in first review (time from original submission to first-round decision) is 72 days; our total time in review averages 97 days. I also note that citations to JOSIS articles are steadily climbing. Google Scholar reports almost 100 citations to JOSIS articles; our most cited articles are currently those from issue 1 by Livia Hollenstein and Ross Purves ([2], 35 citations) and Mike Goodchild ([1], 32 citations).

However, as Peter Suber notes: “New journals can be excellent from birth, but even the best cannot be prestigious from birth” [4]. The path from quality to prestige takes time, and even little luck. Now JOSIS has reached its second anniversary, our next step along the path of increasing prestige is to apply this year for Elsevier Scopus listing, surely to be followed by other indexes including Thomson Reuters ISI. While I can’t be sure what twists and turns this next stretch of our path holds, I have no doubt about our final destination.

References

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