

This item was submitted to Loughborough's Institutional Repository (<https://dspace.lboro.ac.uk/>) by the author and is made available under the following Creative Commons Licence conditions.



CC creative commons
COMMONS DEED

Attribution-NonCommercial-NoDerivs 2.5

You are free:

- to copy, distribute, display, and perform the work

Under the following conditions:

BY: **Attribution.** You must attribute the work in the manner specified by the author or licensor.

Noncommercial. You may not use this work for commercial purposes.

No Derivative Works. You may not alter, transform, or build upon this work.

- For any reuse or distribution, you must make clear to others the license terms of this work.
- Any of these conditions can be waived if you get permission from the copyright holder.

Your fair use and other rights are in no way affected by the above.

This is a human-readable summary of the [Legal Code \(the full license\)](#).

[Disclaimer](#) 

For the full text of this licence, please go to:
<http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-nd/2.5/>

Editorial for *Ergonomics*, vol 50, issue 12

This issue of *Ergonomics* marks the end of its 50th year of scholarly publication. Over this period, *Ergonomics* has made a substantial contribution to the discipline, supporting the research base, whilst striving to maintain high scientific standards with its contents. As its official journal, *Ergonomics* has also played an important part in the history of the Ergonomics Society (Waterson and Sell, 2006).

Another landmark this year has been the move of *Ergonomics* to the online submission and peer review system Manuscript Central™. This transition has proceeded well and manuscripts are now flowing smoothly through the ether. A significant advantage of Manuscript Central is that it supports an early interaction with potential reviewers, allowing confirmation of whether they are prepared to assess a paper prior to it being sent to them. As it is straightforward for reviewers to decline at this stage, the result is that when a request to review is accepted, reviewers are much more likely to provide their report in a timely manner. It is partly as a benefit of this, that authors are in most cases now receiving an initial decision on their manuscripts within 3 months, a considerable improvement on previous timescales.

Another aspect of the electronic age of publishing is rapid growth in the use of online editions of journals, *Ergonomics* being no exception. A benefit of this for publishers and editors is ready access to data on usage, such as the frequency with which individual papers have been accessed. The most frequently downloaded papers from *Ergonomics* for 2005-06 are shown in Table 1, providing an indication of the subject areas of contemporary interest to the readership of the journal.

Looking at these papers, the contributions by Dennerlein and Johnson (2006a, 2006b) are concerned with the musculoskeletal implications of computer use, familiar territory for *Ergonomics*. The same is true of the papers on sitting and seating by Corlett (2006) and Hendriks *et al* (2006). Burnfield and Powers (2006), Hignett and Masud (2006) and Pline *et al* (2006) address the problem of falls, a topic on which *Ergonomics* has published a good number of papers since its first special issue on Slipping, Tripping and Falling in 1983 (vol 26, issue 1). It is interesting that another issue in 1983 (vol 26, issue 8) dealt with Medical Ergonomics, an early precursor to the double special issue on Patient Safety published in 2006, featuring the papers of Elfering *et al* (2006), Fogarty and Mckeon (2006) and Hignett and Masud (2006). Patient safety research is a burgeoning area of ergonomics at present and papers on this topic seem likely to continue to have a presence in ergonomics journals for some time to come. *Ergonomics* has also had a tradition of special issues on sports ergonomics and the articles by Knowles *et al* (2005), Rahnama *et al* (2005) and Vanezis and Lees (2005) featured in the multiple part special issue on Sports, Leisure and Ergonomics published that year.

Regarding the circumstances of other papers in Table 1, Karwowski (2005) was an invited Plenary paper at the XVth Triennial Congress of the International Ergonomics Association, Korea 2003, while Rouch *et al* (2005) was the 2007 recipient of the Liberty Mutual Award, established to promote excellence in safety and health research. The paper by Stanton *et al* (2006) was a significant theoretical paper in the special issue of *Ergonomics* on Command and Control. The articles by Küller *et al* (2006) and Edworthy and Waring (2006) stand out in particular for the frequency with which they have been accessed, perhaps because of a wide general interest in the topics of these papers.

The count of the number of times a paper has been downloaded may be no more than an indicator of readers' anticipated interest in a paper, as stimulated by the paper title and abstract. Accessing a paper in this way does not necessarily mean that the content will be used or drawn upon. Another measure of the impact of a publication is the number of times it is cited subsequently. Table 2 lists the 5 most frequently cited papers from the previous two volumes of *Ergonomics*, each of these having been cited 8-9 times by other papers at the time of writing (publishing lead times mean that there can be a delay between a paper being published and influence becoming visible within other published research). The appearance in this list of the papers by Stanton and Young (2005) and Walker *et al* (2006) perhaps reflect the continuing attention by this journal to vehicle and driving ergonomics and the special issue on Driver Safety published in 2007. Bao and Silverstein's (2005) paper on estimation of hand force in job evaluations contributes to the understanding of the validity and reliability of the force matching approach to estimation of hand forces exerted in the workplace, an important methodological issue for assessing the risk of upper extremity exposures. Hodges *et al's* (2005) paper was another contribution to the 2005 special issue on Sports, Leisure and Ergonomics.

As we move forward to the next 50 years of *Ergonomics*, the aim of the present Editors, working with the Editorial Board and the journal's reviewers, will continue to be to attract and publish high quality, high interest research from across the discipline. The journal will also persist with efforts to improve its service to authors and readers. A high priority is to achieve and maintain swift review times for papers, leading to more rapid publication of research, ensuring the content of *Ergonomics* is as contemporary as possible.

Roger Haslam
30/10/07

References

Attwells R L, Birrell S A, Hooper R H, Mansfield N J, 2006, Influence of carrying heavy loads on soldiers' posture, movements and gait. *Ergonomics*, 49, 1527 – 1537.

Bao S and Silverstein B, 2005, Estimation of hand force in ergonomic job evaluations. *Ergonomics*, 48, 288 – 301.

Bos E H, Krol B, Van Der Star A, Groothoff J W, 2006, The effects of occupational interventions on reduction of musculoskeletal symptoms in the nursing profession. *Ergonomics*, 49, 706 – 723.

Burnfield J M, Powers C M, 2006, Prediction of slips: an evaluation of utilized coefficient of friction and available slip resistance. *Ergonomics*, 49, 982 – 995.

Corlett E N, 2006, Background to sitting at work: research-based requirements for the design of work seats. *Ergonomics*, 49, 1538 – 1546.

Dennerlein J T, Johnson P W, 2006a, Different computer tasks affect the exposure of the upper extremity to biomechanical risk factors. *Ergonomics*, 49, 45 – 61.

- Dennerlein J T, Johnson P W, 2006b, Changes in upper extremity biomechanics across different mouse positions in a computer workstation. *Ergonomics*, 49, 1456 – 1469.
- Edworthy J, Waring H, 2006, The effects of music tempo and loudness level on treadmill exercise. *Ergonomics*, 49, 1597 – 1610.
- Elfering A, Semmer N K, Grebner S, 2006, Work stress and patient safety: Observer-rated work stressors as predictors of characteristics of safety-related events reported by young nurses. *Ergonomics*, 49, 457 – 469.
- Fogarty G J, Mckeon C M, 2006, Patient safety during medication administration: The influence of organizational and individual variables on unsafe work practices and medication errors. *Ergonomics*, 49, 444 – 456.
- Hendriks H M, Spoor C W, de Jong A M, Goossens R H M, 2006, Stability of sitting postures: the influence of degrees of freedom. *Ergonomics*, 49, 1611 – 1626.
- Hignett S, Masud T, 2006, A review of environmental hazards associated with in-patient falls. *Ergonomics*, 49, 605 – 616.
- Hodges N J, Hayes S, Horn R R, Williams A M, 2005, Changes in coordination, control and outcome as a result of extended practice on a novel motor skill. *Ergonomics*, 48, 1672 – 1685.
- Karwowski W, 2005, Ergonomics and human factors: the paradigms for science, engineering, design, technology and management of human-compatible systems. *Ergonomics*, 48, 436 – 463.
- Knowles Z, Borrie A, Telfer H, 2005, Towards the reflective sports coach: issues of context, education and application. *Ergonomics*, 48, 1711 – 1720.
- Küller R, Seifeddin B, Thorbjörn L, Mikellides B, Tonello G, 2006, The impact of light and colour on psychological mood: a cross-cultural study of indoor work environments. *Ergonomics*, 49, 1496 – 1507.
- Morris C H, Leung Y K, 2006, Pilot mental workload: how well do pilots really perform? *Ergonomics*, 49, 1581 – 1596.
- Pline K M, Madigan M L, Nussbaum M A, 2006, Influence of fatigue time and level on increases in postural sway. *Ergonomics*, 49, 1639 – 1648.
- Rahnama N, Lees A, Bambaecichi E, 2005, A comparison of muscle strength and flexibility between the preferred and non-preferred leg in English soccer players. *Ergonomics*, 48, 1568 – 1575.
- Rouch I, Wild P, Ansiau D, Marquié J-C, 2005, Shiftwork experience, age and cognitive performance. *Ergonomics*, 48, 1282 – 1293.
- Stanton N A, Stewart R, Harris D, Houghton R J, Baber C, McMaster R, Salmon P, Hoyle G, Walker G, Young M S, Linsell M, Dymott R, Green D, 2006, Distributed situation awareness

in dynamic systems: theoretical development and application of an ergonomics methodology. *Ergonomics*, 49, 1288 – 1311.

Stanton N A, Young M S, 2005, Driver behaviour with adaptive cruise control. *Ergonomics*, 48, 1294 – 1313.

Takeyama H, Itani T, Tachi N, Sakamura O, Murata K, Inoue T, Takanishi T, Suzumura H, Niwa S, 2005, Effects of shift schedules on fatigue and physiological functions among firefighters during night duty. *Ergonomics*, 48, 1 – 11.

Vanezis A, Lees A, 2005, A biomechanical analysis of good and poor performers of the vertical jump. *Ergonomics*, 48, 1594 – 1603.

Walker G H, Stanton N A, Young M S, 2006, The ironies of vehicle feedback in car design. *Ergonomics*, 49, 161 – 179.

Waterson P and Sell R, 2006, Recurrent themes and developments in the history of the Ergonomics Society. *Ergonomics*, 49, 743-799.

Table 1. Most frequently downloaded papers from *Ergonomics* 2005-06, Jan-Oct 2007, listed in descending frequency of access.

Authors	Title
Küller <i>et al</i> (2006)	The impact of light and colour on psychological mood: a cross-cultural study of indoor work environments.
Edworthy and Waring (2006)	The effects of music tempo and loudness level on treadmill exercise.
Corlett (2006)	Background to sitting at work: research-based requirements for the design of work seats.
Dennerlein and Johnson (2006a)	Different computer tasks affect the exposure of the upper extremity to biomechanical risk factors.
Dennerlein and Johnson (2006b)	Changes in upper extremity biomechanics across different mouse positions in a computer workstation.
Vanezis and Lees (2005)	A biomechanical analysis of good and poor performers of the vertical jump.
Morris and Leung (2006)	Pilot mental workload: how well do pilots really perform?
Fogarty and Mckeen (2006)	Patient safety during medication administration: The influence of organizational and individual variables on unsafe work practices and medication errors.
Pline <i>et al</i> (2006)	Influence of fatigue time and level on increases in postural sway.
Knowles <i>et al</i> (2005)	Towards the reflective sports coach: issues of context, education and application.
Burnfield and Powers (2006)	Prediction of slips: an evaluation of utilized coefficient of friction and available slip resistance.
Rouch <i>et al</i> (2005)	Shiftwork experience, age and cognitive performance.
Karwowski (2005)	Ergonomics and human factors: the paradigms for science,

	engineering, design, technology and management of human-compatible systems.
Elfering <i>et al</i> (2006)	Work stress and patient safety: Observer-rated work stressors as predictors of characteristics of safety-related events reported by young nurses.
Rahnama <i>et al</i> (2005)	A comparison of muscle strength and flexibility between the preferred and non-preferred leg in English soccer players.
Attwells <i>et al</i> (2006)	Influence of carrying heavy loads on soldiers' posture, movements and gait.
Hendriks <i>et al</i> (2006)	Stability of sitting postures: the influence of degrees of freedom.
Stanton <i>et al</i> (2006)	Distributed situation awareness in dynamic systems: theoretical development and application of an ergonomics methodology.
Bos <i>et al</i> (2006)	The effects of occupational interventions on reduction of musculoskeletal symptoms in the nursing profession.
Hignett and Masud (2006)	A review of environmental hazards associated with in-patient falls.

Table 2. Most frequently cited papers from *Ergonomics* 2005-06, as of Oct 2007.

Authors	Title
Walker <i>et al</i> (2006)	The ironies of vehicle feedback in car design.
Stanton and Young (2005)	Driver behaviour with adaptive cruise control.
Bao and Silverstein (2005)	Estimation of hand force in ergonomic job evaluations.
Takeyama <i>et al</i> (2005)	Effects of shift schedules on fatigue and physiological functions among firefighters during night duty.
Hodges <i>et al</i> (2005)	Changes in coordination, control and outcome as a result of extended practice on a novel motor skill.