

Editor's report

During 2009 the number of manuscripts submitted to SORT - Statistics and Operations Research Transactions has increased substantially. The editorial board confirms that authors find SORT more attractive when it is more efficiently indexed and cited. Table 1 provides the historical summary of editorial processes, submitted to the journal since 2007. This table shows trends in submissions, acceptance rates, and external submission rates (received from outside of Catalonia). The number of submissions increased to an unprecedented total of 55 in 2009, which is more than four times the number received in 2008. The acceptance rate now may decrease to less than 20% and therefore vary a lot compared to past rates above 50% once the manuscripts received in 2009 are fully reviewed.

The increase of submissions implies that the average number of manuscripts received is now one per week, which is a record number in the history of the journal. Moreover, given the current number of articles being submitted and their very high quality, editors are now obliged to be very selective on the manuscripts that are potentially publishable by the journal. Articles are evaluated on the basis that they have an excellent quality of presentation and those results showing an applied orientation are given priority.

Table 1: Summary of SORT processes

Year	Submissions	Acceptance rate (%)	External submissions (%)
2007	18	72.22	83.33
2008	13	53.85	69.23
2009	55	9.09*	94.55

*Decision on 24 articles is still pending

The impact assessment, produced by the Journal Citation Reports of the ISI (Institute for Scientific Information) is one of the most frequently used measures of the quality of a journal. The JCR impact factor takes into account citations from articles published in the two preceding years. The 2009 score is based on citations of articles published in 2007 and 2008. The score is the ratio of the number of 2009 citations drawn from articles published in 2007 and 2008 divided by the number of articles published in 2007 and 2008. In 2009 the impact factor that we have calculated unofficially for SORT is at least 0,33. We expect that the release of 2009 scores from ISI in mid June will confirm these good news.

The publisher and the board of sponsors have decided a couple of years ago that SORT will be a fully open-access journal in order to offer timely delivery and electronic

availability free of cost. Printed paper copies continue to be distributed to subscribers, and subscription rates only reflect printing costs. We confirm that having the articles available on line has contributed to a dissemination of the research results published in SORT.

The editorial team is grateful to the publisher and sponsors for their generosity and to all authors, associate editors and referees who have been involved in SORT, and to whom we are indebted. We need to acknowledge the work of Elisabet Aznar, who has done an outstanding job in handling the demands of SORT and has coped with the increasing activity of our journal.

Montserrat Guillén
Chief Editor