# 1989 ANNUAL REPORT BY THE EDITOR OF THE JOURNAL OF RISK AND INSURANCE

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This report follows the established format of discussing the 1989 handling of (1) feature article manuscripts originally submitted prior to January 1, 1989, (2) feature article manuscripts first submitted during 1989, (3) manuscripts submitted as potential shorter articles, (4) potential comments and replies, (5) abstracts of court decisions and of articles from other journals, (6) book reviews, and (7) invited papers. Journal processing times and submission fees are discussed. Persons serving as reviewers during 1989 also are acknowledged and several people are recognized as Assistant Editors.

**Feature Article Manuscripts Carried Over from Previous Years**

The 59 potential feature articles handled in 1989 but originally submitted in prior years included 43 submitted in 1988 and 16 submitted earlier than 1988. The status of these manuscripts at the end of 1989 was:

| | 1988 | Earlier | Total |
|---|---|---|---|
| Accepted | 17 | 4 | 21 |
| Accepted as a Shorter Article | 7 | 2 | 9 |
| Minor revisions required | 2 | - | 2 |
| Major revisions required | 4 | - | 4 |
| Not suitable | 11 | 2 | 13 |
| Currently under review | 2 | - | 2 |
| No response from author since 1987 | - | 8 | 8 |
| Total | 43 | 16 | 59 |

**Feature Article Manuscripts Submitted in 1989**

In 1989, 89 new potential feature articles were submitted. This number is 16 percent above the 1988 volume, and 30 percent above the average number of new submissions for the 1980s through 1988. During the 1980s submissions were:

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1980 | 58 | 1985 | 61 |
| 1981 | 75 | 1986 | 65 |
| 1982 | 71 | 1987 | 82 |
| 1983 | 46 | 1988 | 77 |
| 1984 | 83 | 1989 | 89 |

The status of the 89 new manuscripts at the end of 1989 follows:

| | |
|---|---|
| Accepted | 3 |
| Accepted as a Shorter Article | 1 |
| Minor revisions required | 2 |
| Major revisions required | 16 |
| Not suitable | 28 |
| Currently under review | 39 |
| Total | 89 |

**Acceptance Rate**

A total of 148 feature article submissions were handled in 1989. Final disposition was made of 83 manuscripts in this category.

| | 1989 | 1988 or earlier | Total |
|---|---|---|---|
| Accepted | 3 | 21 | 24 |
| Accepted as a Shorter Article | 1 | 9 | 10 |
| Not suitable | 28 | 13 | 40 |
| No response since 1987 | - | 8 | 8 |
| Total | 32 | 51 | 83 |

Twenty-four manuscripts were accepted as feature articles and ten were accepted as shorter articles. Thus, the overall acceptance rate if 41 percent: 29 percent as feature articles and 12 percent as shorter articles. The overall 41 percent rate compares with an average acceptance rate of 45 percent for the previous five years. Acceptance rates for the previous five years ranged from 27 to 53 percent.

**Shorter Articles**

Five submissions were made during 1989 for the Shorter Articles section and three were found unsuitable for publication. Two shorter article(s) were under review at the end of 1989. Most manuscripts published as shorter articles are first submitted as potential feature articles and are later revised as shorter articles. The submission of more manuscripts for this section of the *Journal* is encouraged.

### Communications

Fourteen comments and authors' replies were handled during 1989. A summary of their status at the end of the year follows:

| | 1989 | 1988 or Earlier | Total |
|---|---|---|---|
| Accepted | 5 | 7 | 12 |
| Minor revision required | - | - | - |
| Major revision required | 1 | - | 1 |
| Not suitable | - | - | - |
| Currently under review | 1 | - | 1 |
| Total | 7 | 7 | 14 |

The total of 12 acceptances for 1989 compares with a total of 15 acceptances for this section of the *Journal* in 1988.

### From the Library Shelf

Reviews in From the Library Shelf continue to be an important part of the *Journal*. During 1989 abstracts of 99 articles from other journals and 20 court decisions related to risk and insurance were published. A listing of recent dissertations related to risk and insurance also appeared.

### Book Reviews

Sixteen book reviews were submitted during 1989. All were accepted; six of these required minor revisions. Seven additional book review assignments have been made.

### Invited Papers

Two Invited Papers were published during 1989:

- Gerald L. Maatman, "A Proposal for Change: Affordable Automobile Insurance"
- Presidential Address: Jerry D. Todd, "Building Bridges"

Each year the winners of the Elizur Wright and Clarence Kulp book awards are encouraged to prepare invited papers for the *Journal*. For various reasons many of these potential papers are never submitted.

### Feature Article Processing Time

For the 50 feature article manuscripts submitted in 1989 and not currently under review, authors were given an initial decision in an average of three months. A cumulative distribution appears below:

| Time | Percent |
|---|---|
| One month or less | 8 |
| Two months or less | 22 |
| Three months or less | 50 |

| Time | Percent |
|---|---|
| Four months or less | 74 |
| Five months or less | 84 |
| Six months or less | 96 |
| Seven months or less | 100 |

Of the 39 feature article manuscripts submitted during 1989 and still under review at the end of the year, five were being considered as revised manuscripts in a second round. Twenty-three had been under review for less than three months. The complete schedule for the manuscripts under review follows:

| | |
|---|---|
| Since May | 1 |
| Since July | 1 |
| Since August | 2 |
| Since September | 12 |
| Since October | 6 |
| Since November | 2 |
| Since December | 15 |
| Total | 39 |

At the end of 1989, two manuscripts initially received during 1988 were under review. These were revised versions of manuscripts, which had been under review for less than one month. Reviewers are given a due date approximately 31 days after a manuscript is mailed. Monthly reminder letters begin after a review is one month overdue. Even with these reminders some reviewers and the *Journal* staff experience slow turnaround on several manuscripts each year. Further efforts to reduce our response time will be made in 1990.

The last feature article and shorter article accepted in 1989 will be published in the June 1990 issue. Book reviews, however, currently have a one-issue back log.

## Dues and Fees

A submission fee of $30 for non-ARIA members became effective on January 1, 1988. During 1989 13 authors joined ARIA either through the editorial office or by notifying us that they had recently sent membership dues to the Executive Director. Submission fees were collected for 22 manuscripts.

## Journal Staff and Reviewers

The smooth functioning of the *Journal* is dependent on many persons: (1) authors who provide the crucial raw materials and patience during the review process, (2) many reviewers who donate their expertise and (3) the *Journal* staff who works tirelessly. The current editorial staff is listed on the inside title page of this issue.