© *The Journal of Risk and Insurance*, 2008, Vol. 75, No. 4, 1087-1096

2008 Editor Report

Here is the printed version of the report of the editor as presented to the ARIA meeting on August 2008.

Submissions and Publication Statistics (July 14, 2008)

Table 1 provides the historical summary of JRI processes, as submitted before 2007 to ARIA. This table updates the historical trends in submissions, acceptance rates, and international submission rates (outside of the United States). It also presents the average processing time. The number of submissions and acceptance rates seem to attain equilibrium at around 200 and 20 percent, respectively, but the average processing time varies across the years and is still lengthy. The number of submissions in Table 1 includes resubmissions, since a new submission number is assigned to a manuscript resubmitted after revisions. The numbers in Table 2 reflect only new submissions. This manner of presentation has a significant effect on the numbers and particularly on the acceptance rates. The second table shows higher acceptance rates because the manuscripts returned for revision in the first table are counted as rejected in the first round, whereas the total number of accepted manuscripts does not change.

The average processing time is also affected by the second way of presenting statistics in Table 2 since the peer-review process is shorter in the second run. The average processing time in Table 2 applies to the first submission, whereas that in Table 1 is the average over the total number of rounds for which the article receives a different manuscript number. Many journals publish the type of statistics shown in Table 2 since they seem to have the greatest influence over where authors decide to submit their articles for publication. They also give a better assessment of the new submissions and the acceptance rates.

Since January 2007, we have been suggesting a 3-month deadline to the referees. We have also adopted a screening process that allows us to return a manuscript to the author without a referee report. This is usually done by an associate editor whose expert knowledge on the subject qualifies him to decide whether to reject the article or send it to referees. The two main reasons for returning an article after the screening process are (1) a low probability it will measure up to the standards of the JRI and (2) lack of any link between the content of the article and the mission of the JRI. We still have to improve the screening process.

The last column of both tables provides the international submission rates. An article is considered international if the affiliation of the corresponding author is outside the United States. In previous years, the criterion was not exactly the same. An article

TABLE 1
Historical Summary of Journal Processes (With Resubmissions—July 14, 2008)

Year	Submissions	Acceptance Rate (%)	Average Processing Time (Days) (Articles Counted for Calculations)	International Submissions
1999	110	31.82	118 (106)	44 (39%)
2000	106	19.81	133 (92)	44 (41%)
2001	158	22.78	135 (22)	74 (47%)
2002	144	22.22	177 (76)	79 (53%)
2003	143	20.28	141 (141)	66 (46%)
2004	177	18.64	124 (177)	91 (51%)
2005	184	20.11	148 (182)	96 (52%)
2006	210	17.14	157 (202)	107 (51%)
2007	195	10.77	167 (184)	114 (59%)
2008	115	11.3	69 (48)	61 (53%)

TABLE 2
Historical Summary of Journal Processes (Without Resubmissions—July 14, 2008)

Year	New Submissions	Acceptance Rate (%)	Average Processing Time for First Decision (Days)	International Submissions
1999	101	47.52	117	
2000	72	44.44	144	
2001	109	35.78	97	
2002	100	27	187	
2003	102	33.33	154	
2004	120	30.83	126	
2005	134	24.63	152	
2006	139	18.71	163	
2007	146	6.85	181	90 (62%)
2008	64	1.56	72	33 (52%)

was considered international if the affiliation of any one of its authors was outside the United States. We have chosen this new criterion because it better highlights the international status of the article. It is also easier to manage. As the numbers show, the JRI's international profile has developed substantially since 1999. More than 50 percent of the articles submitted come from outside the United States. In 2008, up to now, 33 of the 64 new articles submitted have been of foreign origin.

Tables 3 and 4 give the publication statistics, and Table 5 presents the status of manuscripts according to year. Following the measures adopted last year, the backlog has been significantly reduced in the 3 years preceding the current year. Only 25 articles accepted before 2008 have not yet been published; 12 of the 37 accepted articles in the total backlog will be published in the September issue, and about 12 will be published in the December issue. Table 6 presents waiting periods for the first decision, measured in months. As you can see, the screening process during the first

TABLE 3
Manuscripts Submitted and Published (With Resubmissions—July 14, 2008)

Year	Submitted	Published	(%) Published
1999	110	35	31.82
2000	106	21	19.81
2001	158	36	22.78
2002	144	32	22.22
2003	143	29	20.28
2004	177	33	18.64
2005	184	35	19.02
2006	210	28	13.33
2007	195	6	3.08
2008	115	1	0.87

TABLE 4
Manuscript Submitted and Published (Without Resubmissions—July 14, 2008)

Year	Submitted	Published	(%) Published
1999	101	48	47.52
2000	72	32	44.44
2001	109	39	35.78
2002	100	27	27
2003	102	32	31.37
2004	120	35	29.17
2005	134	26	19.4
2006	139	8	5.76
2007	146	2	1.37
2008	64	1	1.56

TABLE 5
Status of Manuscripts According to Year (July 14, 2008)

Year	Submissions	Pending	Rejected	Revise and Resubmit	Published	Backlog
1999	110	0	34	41	35	0
2000	106	0	35	50	21	0
2001	158	0	60	62	36	0
2002	144	0	61	51	32	0
2003	143	0	70	44	29	0
2004	177	0	86	58	33	0
2005	184	0	88	59	35	2
2006	210	1	91	82	28	8
2007	195	12	84	78	6	15
2008	115	67	16	19	1	12

TABLE 6
First Decision Waiting Periods Measured in Months (July 14, 2008)

Months to Obtain a Response	Year of Submission 1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
1	12	10	3	3	15	34	31	17	11	12
2	9	6	2	1	9	18	13	11	16	9
3	18	17	4	10	20	21	16	30	8	8
4	19	11	4	7	22	31	23	23	20	11
5	21	13	6	17	19	17	27	26	35	8
6	8	13	0	8	21	14	22	31	23	0
7	8	9	0	8	12	9	13	16	20	0
8	4	4	0	5	9	14	8	13	17	0
9	6	2	0	6	7	6	8	11	10	0
10	1	3	0	2	1	1	2	6	5	0
11	0	2	0	4	1	4	5	5	8	0
12	0	1	0	2	3	3	4	3	4	0
More than 12	0	1	3	3	2	5	10	10	7	0
Total	106	92	22	76	141	177	182	202	184	48
Average time in first 12 months	4.39	4.8	3.42	5.95	4.88	4.33	4.73	5.22	5.72	2.88

TABLE 7
Yearly Statistics (July 14, 2008)

Year	Number of New Submissions	Number of Resubmissions	Number of Published Articles
1999	97	14	29
2000	72	34	28
2001	109	52	26
2002	100	46	23
2003	101	42	37
2004	120	57	29
2005	133	52	26
2006	139	71	33
2007	146	49	37
2008	64	51	24

month was being less heavily used in 2007 than in previous years, whereas in 2008, it has been improved (12/48). We should mention that 2007 was a transitional year for the editorial office. Table 7 relates the new submissions with the numbers of published articles and that of resubmissions by year. We observe that the number of published articles has increased over the recent years. We should publish about 48 articles in 2008.

In 2007, Internet readership was 8 percent higher than that in 2006: 158,311 downloads via *Blackwell Synergy* and other online hosts were registered. JRI subscriptions to the automatic e-mail table of contents alert (e-toc) service totaled 740 in 2007, an increase of 17 percent. For more details, see Wiley-Blackwell Publisher's Report 2007.

Impact Assessment

We have received great news about JRI's impact assessment for 2006. The impact assessment was put out by the Journal Citation Reports (JCR) of the Institute for Scientific Information (ISI). The JCR's impact factor 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 2 preceding years. So the 2007 score is based on citations of articles published in 2005 and 2006. The score is the ratio of the number of 2007 citations drawn from articles published in 2005 and 2006 divided by the number of articles published in 2005 and 2006. JRI's 2007 impact factor is lower than that in 2006, which was the highest in the Journal's history and now hovers around the numbers of earlier years. The impact factor dropped from 0.722 in 2006 to 0.305 in 2007. Since our backlog problem seems to be solved, our objective for the next years will be to develop a strategy for attaining a better citation record. We still believe that the production of special issues is the best strategy for a specialized journal such as JRI.

Editorial Board and Submission Procedure

The list of the editorial board members is attached. They were chosen by the editor based on their expertise and their involvement as authors and referees in the Journal's activity. About 30 percent are from outside the United States. Five of these members are co-editors. When the articles are received at the editorial office, the editor either assigns them to a co-editor or handles them himself, depending on their content. The person in charge of an article chooses the referees and makes suggestions about publication. The editor may also ask an associate editor to take charge of an article. The usual conflict of interest rules are taken into account. Associate editors, co-editors, and referees are not assigned to handle manuscripts by authors from their institutions, nor by any of their co-authors or by any of their graduate students. All the correspondence is managed by the main office of JRI at HEC Montréal. The final decisions always belong to the editor, as specified in the contract between the editor and ARIA. All manuscripts are submitted by e-mail. Pdf versions are reviewed in a double-blind manner: the names of the authors do not appear on the manuscript, and the names of the referees are not revealed to the authors. Neither the name of the associate editor nor that of the co-editor is necessarily revealed to the authors. This decision belongs to the member of the editorial board in charge of the article.

Stephen D'Arcy is going to quit the editorial board since he is leaving the academic world. He will be replaced by Michael Hoy, who has been very active in evaluating manuscripts for JRI for many years. Bertrand Villeneuve is another generous referee who has been invited to join the editorial board list. We thank heartily Stephen D'Arcy for his contribution to the Journal.

MANUSCRIPTS REFEREES

The 2007 list of referees is attached. This list is for the new submissions and the revisions managed during 2007.

SUBMISSION DEVELOPMENT

The editorial board is working on two special issues in order to increase the quality of submissions. The first issue is on *Health Insurance and Long-Term Care Management* and will be published in March 2009. The second one is related to the SROR-JRI conference on *New Forms of Risk Sharing and Risk Engineering* held in Paris in September 2007. This issue will be published in June 2009 under the co-editorship of David Cummins.

PROTOCOL FOR MEHR AWARD

The editorial board is responsible for the Mehr Award. The American Risk and Insurance Association yearly presents the Robert I. Mehr Award to the authors of the JRI article that has best stood the test of time. The article so honored must be 10 years old and so, this year, JRI articles from 1998 were considered. The award is presented at the ARIA annual meeting. The editor and associate editors are responsible for selecting the winner.

Last spring, we sent the members of the editorial board the title, author(s), abstract, and citations documented in JSTOR for the 1998 articles. The record of citations is not necessarily exhaustive. For example, we may find some additional citations on Google Scholar. Citations are of course important, and so we shall include all we can find. We do not, however, believe that they are of paramount importance or that they replace judgment.

Since all the articles are archived in JSTOR, we were also able to include links to them. The members of the board had to rank candidates as first, second, and third choice (first being the preferred selection) and then send their ballot to Claire Boisvert, assistant editor for the JRI. The usual restrictions applied; i.e., associate editors who had an article under consideration were not allowed to vote and were not included on the award committee mailing list. This year, the winning article was selected during the first round.

The 2008 winning article is "Financial Pricing of Insurance in the Multiple-Line Insurance Company," by Richard D. Phillips, J. David Cummins, and Franklin Allen (vol. 65, no. 4, December 1998).

TECHNOLOGICAL INFRASTRUCTURE

As mentioned above, all manuscripts are received by e-mail. All correspondence is also done by e-mail. We are in the process of implementing an Internet manuscript management software system. We shall start using this new system during this fall.

EDITORIAL DATABASE

The editorial database has been on the same commercial server since 1998. The same server will be used when we start using the Internet manuscript software system. We shall also use an additional FTP server allowed by HEC Montréal.

INTERFACE WITH PUBLISHERS

Our two main contacts at Wiley-Blackwell are Matthew Barsamian, for questions regarding the management of the Journal, and Sharon Scalzo, for those regarding production. The collaboration is excellent, and the production schedule is on time.

INTERFACE WITH ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF

Tony Biacchi and Lee Gardner, of ARIA, are in contact with us for the management of the Journal. During the last year, the two main activities revolved around managing of the backlog and changing the Journal's cover pages. It was agreed with Wiley-Blackwell to increase the number of published pages to 1,000 for 2007 (920 were published), and ARIA's administrative staff was very collaborative in finding the funds for the extra pages needed in 2008 and 2009 in order to reduce the backlog. About 1,100 pages will be annually published in 2008 and 2009.

We also changed the Journal's cover pages to match the look of ARIA's new logo. Again ARIA's administrative staff as well as its president, Mary Weiss, have been very generous with their help in this process. We also thank Sharon Scalzo, from Wiley-Blackwell, for her kind involvement.

Claire Boisvert, the assistant editor, has done an outstanding job in handling the major demands of the Journal since January 2007. Jean-François Blanchard-Dionne has been of great support in helping us manage both the website and the data set. He also built up the new submission procedure by web that will start up during this fall.

A WORD OF THANKS

I would like to thank all the JRI collaborators for their remarkable support and help. My appreciation is also addressed to the referees and authors for their generous support.

Georges Dionne

Editor

APPENDICES

- Editorial Board
- 2007 Referees List

Journal of Risk and Insurance
2007 Referees list

K. Aase
R. Aboudi
J. Ai
Y. Alarie
J. Ambrose
R. Arnott
A.R. Bacinello
V. Bajtelsmit
L. Ballotta
E. Baranoff
P. Barrieu
P.P. Barros
Y. Baryshnikov
D. Bauer
K. Bender
C. Bernard
J. Bhattacharya
E. Biffis
D. Blake
G. Blazenko
C. Blondeau
J. Boivin
E. Bond
P. Booth
P. Born
N. Boubakri
J.-M. Bourgeon
M.M. Boyer
M. Boyer
P. Boyle
M. Breton
J. Brown
M. Browne
T. Buchmueller
K. Burnecki
R. Butler
J. Caballe
J. Cardon
R. Carr
A. Carroll
J. Carson
O. Chakroun
U. Cherubini
I.-M. Chiu
A. Cohen
S. Cox
L. Cox
K. Crocker
J.D. Cummins
K. Dachraoui
M. Dahchour
B. Dahlby
S. D'Arcy
M. Demers
M. Denuit
R. Derrig
R.A. Devlin
P. Devolder
G. Dionne
N. Doherty
B. Dostie
K. Dowd
R. Dumm
M. Eckardt
P. Ehling
J. Eisenhauer
P. Embrechts
P. Eugster
B. Ewing
M.-C. Fagart
C. Fluet
N. Fombaron
I. Fooladi
G. Fournier
P. Francois
E. Frees
R. Gagne
P. Gaillardetz
J. Garven
J. Gaver
C. Genest
C. Gollier
M. Goovaerts
C. Gourieroux
E. Grace
M. Grace
A. Gron
H. Gruendl
S. Haberman
J. Haley
L. Halliwell
L.P. Hansen
D. Harless
S. Harrington
A. Hau
D. Haushalter
M. Hellwig
G. Hoffer
M. Hoy
R. Hoyt
W. Hurlimann
D. Jaffee
G.Z. Jin
S. Kalpathy
B. Kambia-Chopin
L. Kaplow
D. Kerr
B. Kim
A. Kleffner
R. Klein
W. Kuo
W.J. Kwon
G. Lai
H. Lapan
J.P. Laurent
C. Laux
P.-T. Leger
J. Lemaire
T. Leverty
C. Lewis
D. Li
J. Ligon
Y. Lin
A. Lioui
C.-C. Liu
S. Loisel
Y.-L. Ma
R. MacMinn
D. Madan
L. Mancini
E. Marceau
R. Maurer
D. Mayers
R. McClure
K. McCullough
A. McNeil
D. Meyer
J. Meyer
J. Miao
P.-C. Michaud
M. Milevsky
G. Monteiro
M. Mougeot
A. Muermann
S. Mukerji
J. Mulvey
R. Natarajan
M. Nell
G. Niehaus
T. Nilssen
G. Nini
A. Nouira
A. Olivieri
S. Olshansky
M. Ormiston
J.F. Outreville
M. Pacurar
D. Paul
E. Pekoz
S.-A. Persson
K. Petroni
P. Picard
J. Pinquet
G. Poitras
M. Polborn
L. Posey
M. Power
M. Powers
R. Puelz
S. Purcal
S. Ramaswamy
L. Regan
R.-D. Reiss
B. Remillard
B. Rey-Fournier
A. Richter

B. Roberts
D. Rogers
B. Rossi
T. Russell
H. Ryan
T. Sager
K. Saito
F. Salanie
E. Schlee
H. Schlesinger
J.M. Schulenburg
R. Schulze
A. Sen
S. Shavell
R. Shelor
K. Simon
J.-G. Simonato
F. Sloan
A. Snow
D. Sommer
N. Tahani
J.-M. Tallon
A.J. Tanskanen
S. Tennyson
W. Tian
L. Tibiletti
J. Treussard
T. Triki
S. van Norden
E. Venezian
G. Venter
B. Villeneuve
K. Viswanathan
P. Wachtel
A. Wagner
A. Wambach
C. Ward
D. Ward
R. Watt
M. Weiss
D. Wilkie
R. Winter
J. Worrall
X. Xie
N. Yamori
J. Ye
J.-H. Yeh
V. Young
T. Yu
G. Zanjani
R. Zurbruegg