

Publisher's & Editor-in-Chief's Report (May 2013)



Journal of Forensic and Legal Medicine

An International Journal of Forensic and Legal Medicine

Faculty of Forensic and Legal Medicine

ISSN: 1752-928X

Publisher: Aisling Murphy (a.murphy@elsevier.com)

Journal Manager: Annabelle Thomas (annabelle.thomas@elsevier.com)

Publishing Support Manager: Alexia Basualdo (a.basualdo@elsevier.com)

Marketing Manager: W. Montalvo (w.montalvo@elsevier.com)

Editor-in-Chief: Jason Payne-James

Copyright: Elsevier Ltd and Faculty of Forensic and Legal Medicine.

Imprint: Elsevier

Commenced publication: 2007 (under its current title)

Abstracted/indexed in:

Bibliography of Periodical Literature and International Bibliography of Book Reviews, Cambridge Scientific Abstracts, Criminal Justice Abstracts, EMBASE, Forensic Science FORS, MEDLINE®, National Criminal Justice Reference Service, Scopus

Website:

On Elsevier.com: <http://www.elsevier.com/locate/yjflm>

Links:

Journal of Clinical Forensic Medicine on SD: <http://www.sciencedirect.com/science/journal/1752928X>

Sample copy: <http://www.sciencedirect.com/science/journal/1752928X>

Electronic submission: <http://ees.elsevier.com/jflm>

Guide for Authors: <http://www.elsevier.com/locate/inca/711392/authorinstructions>

1. Publication Schedule

2012: Vol. 19 (1 volume, 8 issues). Page budget =520 pages.

2013: Vol. 20 (1 volume, 8 issues). Page budget = unlimited from April in order to clear backlog.

Vol 20/1 January 2013 = 64 editorial pages published

Vol 20/2 February 2013 = 64 editorial pages published

Vol 20/3 April 2013 = 60 editorial pages published

Vol 20/4 May 2013 = 184 editorial pages published (*bumper issue to clear backlog*)

Vol 20/5 July 2013 = approx. 180 editorial pages to be published (*bumper issue*)

2. Editorial

Milestones for time measurements are submission, (latest) first decision, author revision time, and final disposition. N.B. only articles submitted to and processed using Elsevier Editorial System (EES) or Editorial Manager (EM) are reported here. This implies that article counts and processing times may deviate somewhat from values reported in subsequent sections of this report.

2.1 *Articles received per year (2012)*

Year values (2011 values in brackets for comparison)

Vol/iss 2012	Subm. No. of articles	Final disposition							
		No. of articles	Processing times (in weeks)			Results			
			Subm. to 1st decn.	Auth. rev. time	Sub. to fin. disp.	Withdrawn	Accepted	Rejected	Rejec. rate
Total	346 (262)	277 (247)	15.7 (19)	5.3 (6.6)	25.5 (27.8)	20 (18)	143 (126)	114 (103)	0.44 (0.45)

Measurements per 09-Apr-2013

Articles received 2013 YTD

	Subm. No. of articles	Final disposition							
		No. of articles	Processing times (in weeks)			Results			
			Subm. to 1st decn.	Auth. rev. time	Sub. to fin. disp.	Withdrawn	Accepted	Rejected	Rejec. rate
Total	162	119	16.4	4.6	27.5	11	58	50	0.46%

Measurements per 03-May-2013

3. Articles into production

3.1 *Articles into production (2012)*

Month values (previous year's values in brackets for comparison).

2012	Jan 2012	Feb 2012	Mar 2012	Apr 2012	May 2012	Jun 2012	Jul 2012	Aug 2012	Sep 2012	Oct 2012	Nov 2012	Dec 2012
Articles	2 (22)	31 (15)	2 (1)	40 (10)	10 (8)	15 (17)	13 (14)	1 (0)	26 (8)	7 (8)	3 (0)	7 (35)
Pages	7 (91)	122 (60)	2 (1)	188 (39)	47 (38)	47 (61)	37 (53)	2 (0)	122 (33)	33 (36)	14 (0)	39 (164)

Articles into production (2013 YTD)

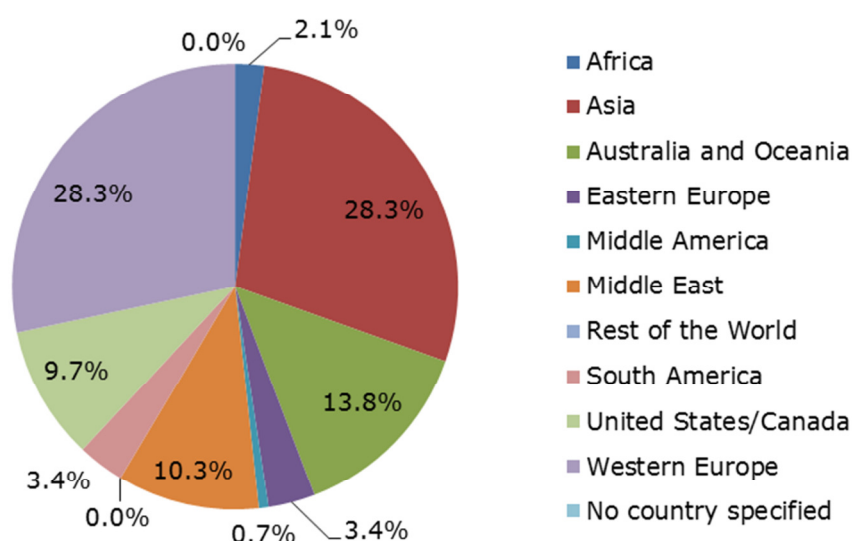
Current year	Jan 2013	Feb 2013	Mar 2013	Apr 2013	May 2013
Articles	4	11	41	7	0
Pages	11	53	184	32	0

Measurements per 27-Apr-2013

4. Geographical breakdown

4.2 World Regions

Regional breakdown of corresponding authors (2013 YTD)



5. Issue Progress

5.1 Published Issues

Issues that have been sent to the subscribers (2013 YTD)

2013	Vol/iss	Cover date	Mailed	Spec / reg	Special issue title	Pages	Edit. pages
	20/1	01-Jan-2013	08-Jan-2013	R		68	64
	20/2	01-Feb-2013	12-Feb-2013	R		68	64
	20/3	Apr-13	19-Mar-13	R		68	59
2013 Total	3					204	187

Measurements per 09-Apr-2013

5.4 Papers not yet assigned to an issue

Regular articles or articles for listed special issues		No. of articles	No. of pages
Subtotals	Regular articles	79	377
	Non-regular (among others S.I.) not yet assigned to an issue		
	Regular articles not yet assigned to an issue	79	377
Total		79	377

Measurements per 03-May-2013

6. Publication speed

6.1 All articles (2012 and 2013 YTD)

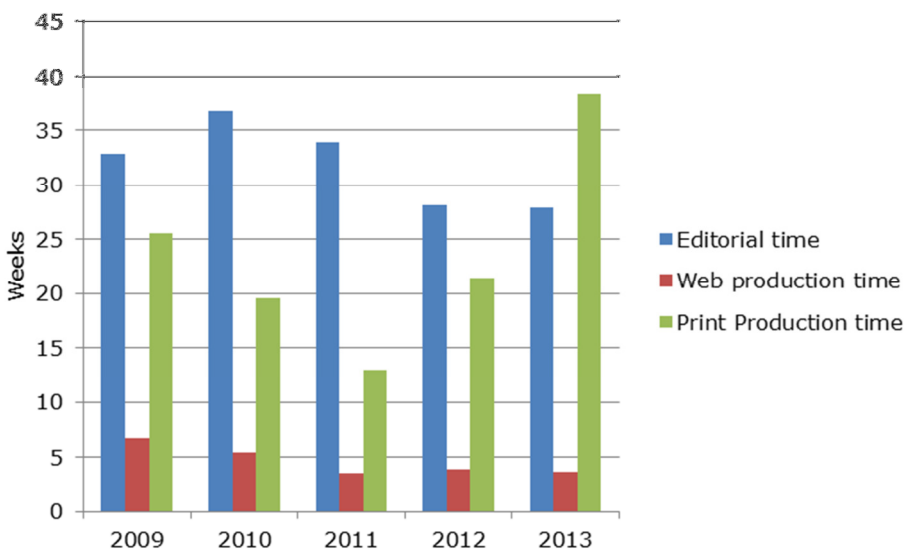
Measurements in weeks. Averages, including the average over all issues, are weighted over all articles in each issue. [Editorial time](#) is defined as time between first submission and arrival at the Elsevier offices; [Production time](#) as the time between arrival at the Elsevier offices and (1) web publication of the article in final version on ScienceDirect, (2) web publication of the complete journal issue on ScienceDirect, and (3) despatch of the printed issue from the warehouse; and finally the total [publication time](#) as the time from submission to despatch of the issue from the warehouse.

	Issue type	No. of articles	Editorial time	Production time			Publication time	
				Article in final version on web	Complete issue on web	Printed issue	On web	Printed issue
All issues		72	27.9	3.7	33.6	38.3	61.7	67
20/1	R	10	25.4	3.4	32.4	36.9	57.8	62.3
20/2	R	12	27.6	3.9	36	38.4	63.6	66
20/3	R	12	32.1	3.7	38.8	39.3	71.4	72
20/4	R	38	27.3	3.8	31.6		59	
Issues 1-3	R	34	28.5	3.7	35.9	38.3	64.6	67

Measurements per 27-Apr-2013

6.2 Previous years

Graphical presentation of average publication time of printed issues over previous years



7. ScienceDirect Usage

7.1 Usage per month (2013 YTD)

Counts of downloaded article files (usage) from ScienceDirect during the indicated period. This is usage for Full text all access types for Journal of Forensic and Legal Medicine and Journal of Clinical and Forensic Medicine.

Downloads per month	Jan 2013
Journal of Forensic and Legal Medicine	9,123
Journal of Clinical and Forensic Medicine	2,461
Total	11,584

Measurements per 12 Mar 2013

7.2 Usage previous years

Downloads per year	2009	2010	2011	2012
Journal of Forensic and Legal Medicine	77,196	84,407	83,982	107,096
Journal of Clinical and Forensic Medicine	34,879	35,773	28,804	31,602
Total	112,075	120,180	93,034	138,158

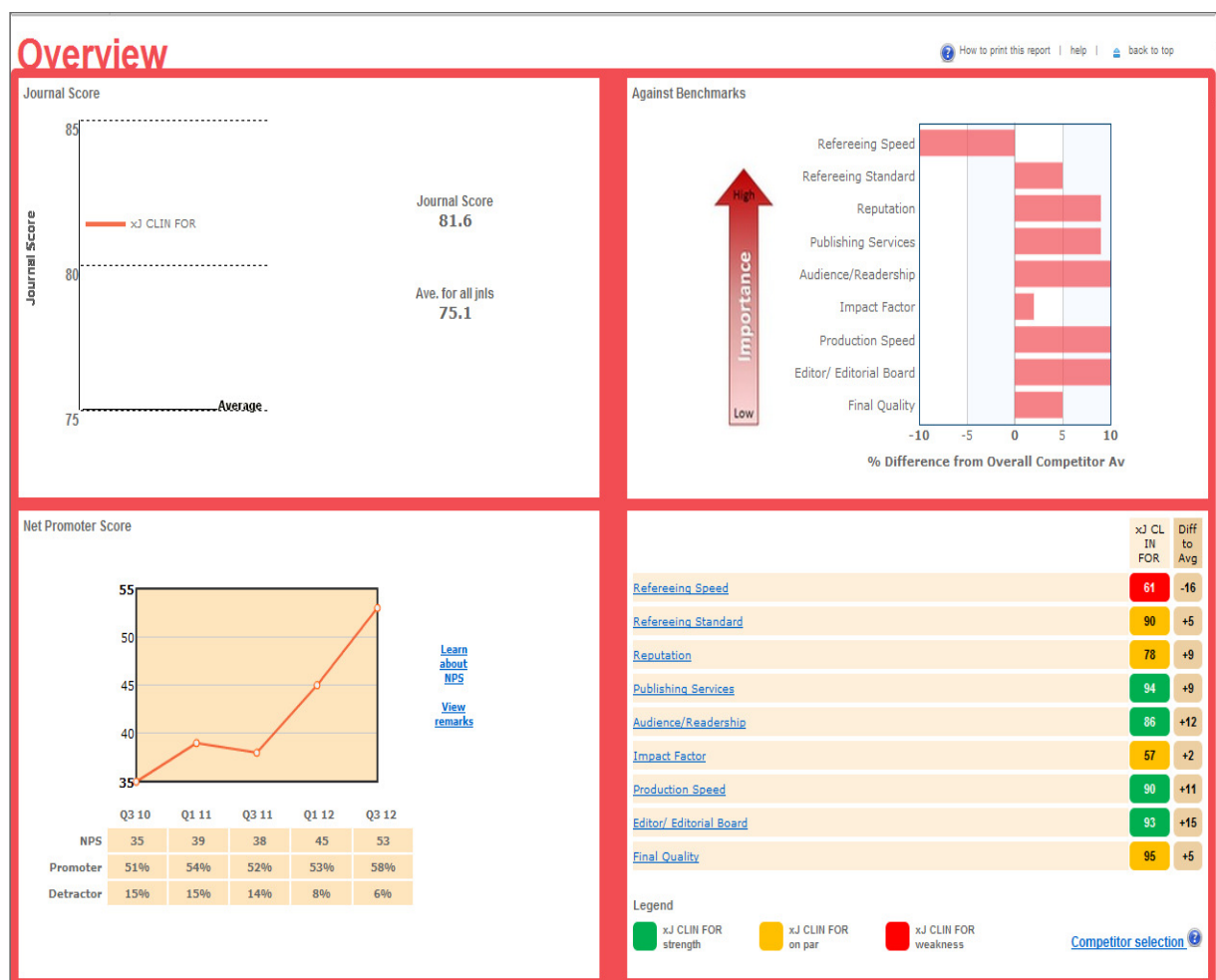
7.3 Most downloaded articles

Overview of the Top 20 most downloaded articles during the last full quarter (Q4-2012).

Downloads	Article title	Vol./iss.	On-line published	Publication date
384	DNA Profiling and forensic dentistry - A review of the recent concepts and trends (Manjunath, B.C.; Chandrashekar, B.R.; Mahesh, M.; Vatchala Rani, R.M.)	18/5	23-Mar-2011	Jul-2011
359	Are full or empty beer bottles sturdier and does their fracture-threshold suffice to break the human skull? (Bolliger, S.A.; Ross, S.; Oesterhelweg, L.; Thali, M.J.; Kneubuehl, B.P.)	16/3	07-Nov-2008	Apr-2009
310	Men as victims of intimate partner violence (Carmo, R.; Grams, A.; Magalhaes, T.)	18/8	12-Aug-2011	Nov-2011
230	Factors and processes causing accelerated decomposition in human cadavers - An overview (Zhou, C.; Byard, R.W.)	18/1	10-Nov-2010	Jan-2011
213	Excited delirium syndrome (ExDS): Treatment options and considerations (Vilke, G.M.; Bozeman, W.P.; Dawes, D.M.; DeMers, G.; Wilson, M.P.)	19/3	24-Jan-2012	Apr-2012
194	A brief history of Forensic odontology since 1775 (Bruce-Chwatt, R.M.)	17/3	09-Feb-2010	Apr-2010
170	Mechanisms of chronic pain from whiplash injury (Davis, C.G.)		04-Jul-2012	
166	Generating STR profile from "Touch DNA" (Aditya, S.; Sharma, A.K.; Bhattacharyya, C.N.; Chaudhuri, K.)	18/7	03-Jun-2011	Oct-2011
161	EEG abnormalities in psychopath and non-psychopath violent offenders (Calzada-Reyes, A.; Alvarez-Amador, A.; Galan-Garcia, L.; Valdes-Sosa, M.)	20/1	16-May-2012	Jan-2013
160	The crucifixion of Jesus: Review of hypothesized mechanisms of death and implications of shock and trauma-induced coagulopathy (Bergeron, J.W.)	19/3	12-Jul-2011	Apr-2012
159	Assessing the presence of female DNA on post-coital penile swabs: Relevance to the investigation of sexual assault (Farmen, R.K.B.; Haukeli, I.; Ruoff, P.; Froyland, E.S.)	19/7	08-Mar-2012	Oct-2012
156	The occurrence of acute subdural haematoma and diffuse axonal injury as two typical acceleration injuries (Davceva, N.; Janevska, V.; Ilievski, B.; Petrushevska, G.; Popeska, Z.)	19/8	23-May-2012	Nov-2012
155	Applying forensic anthropological data in homicide investigation to the depravity standard (Reinhard, K.J.; Welner, M.; Okoye, M.I.; Marotta, M.; Plank, G.; Anderson, B.; Mastellon, T.)	20/1	18-May-2012	Jan-2013
154	Abusing female children by circumcision is continued in Egypt (Zayed, A.A.; Ali, A.A.)	19/4	10-Mar-2012	May-2012
153	Injuries from intimate partner and sexual violence: Significance and classification systems (Sommers, M.S.; Brown, K.M.; Buschur, C.; Everett, J.S.; Fargo, J.D.; Fisher, B.S.; Hinkle, C.; Zink, T.M.)	19/5	05-Mar-2012	Jul-2012
150	A new classification of necrophilia (Aggrawal, A.)	16/6	28-Jan-2009	Aug-2009
145	A re-audit of the use of definitions of sudden infant death syndrome (SIDS) in peer-reviewed literature (Byard, R.W.; Lee, V.)	19/8	26-Apr-2012	Nov-2012
138	Risk factors in child sexual abuse (Davies, E.A.; Jones, A.C.)		13-Jul-2012	
133	Sex identification from fingertip features in Egyptian population (Eshak, G.A.; Zaher, J.F.; Hasan, E.I.; El-Azeem Ewis, A.A.)	20/1	20-May-2012	Jan-2013
133	Anthropometry of hand in sex determination of dismembered remains - A review of literature (Kanchan, T.; Krishan, K.)	18/1	14-Dec-2010	Jan-2011

8. Author Feedback Program

Q3 2012 Results: 01/01/2011 – 30/06/2012, 28 respondents



8.1 Journal Score

The nine factor scores are weighted according to their importance, and used to calculate a composite journal score. This score is then compared to the journal scores of other journals in which the author also recently published.

Note: The maximum potential journal score is 100, but in general, scores vary between 50 and 90. The composite rating score for Journal of Forensic and Legal Medicine and the most frequently mentioned "other" journals (or their more-year average if available) are charted below. **The Journal Score for JFLM is 81.6**

8. Summary

JFLM needs to speed up reviewing time and publication time. Reviewer speed is a common problem with journals. This is being addressed by seeking further reviewers. The journal has a very good reputation in the forensic community and the number of submissions has increased by about 1/3 since the journal achieved an Impact Factor, so crucial for those publishing original research. The increased submission rate will mean that the rejection rate can be increased from the current 45% to ~ 66%, which will further improve quality of published content and improve publication times. The next couple of issues (9Vol 20/4 and 20/5) will be expanded to clear the backlog. JFLM like many other journals has increasing problems of research fraud, which might include plagiarism, duplicate publication, falsifying results, and papers submitted with the absence of appropriate permissions. Dealing with these is often complex and takes up considerable editorial and publishing time. This problem is unlikely to lessen in a time when publications are often crucial to professional advancement or research funding.

9. 2013 Initiatives introduced for JFLM (YTD):

AudioSlides option for authors (copyright held by Elsevier) to accompany paper. AudioSlides are not peer-reviewed, simply a PPT with audio to enhance summary of article (introduced March 2013). First JFLM article with author AudioSlides can be viewed here: <http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.jflm.2013.03.015>

Free Referencing Style: 6 main reference styles used as base so authors can submit with one of the six styles as long as references are consistent and correct. Elsevier's typesetters will convert to the relevant journal style. Approx 40% manually update references and don't use a reference management tool (April 2013).

Open Access Creative Commons Copyright for RCUK and Wellcome Trust funded articles (April 2013).

Technical Screening Procedure updates (15 April 2013)

Removing checks for highlights so that papers are not sent back to Authors if they do not contain highlights or are an incorrect word length. This will instead become something that they have to provide at revision stage.

Removing reference style checks that are currently in place to ensure that reference style is in keeping with the Guide for Authors. References will still need to be provided in a consistent style and be complete. The correct reference style will be applied by the setters during proofing.

Allowing more paper formatting flexibility so that Authors can submit their papers without double line spacing and without providing all tables and figures in separate files. This also extends to table/figure captions which will no longer have to be provided on a separate page.

Abstract word counts will be allowed a 10% 'margin of error' capacity. So if an abstract is a few words over a limit, it will not be returned to Authors.

JFLM will move to **Article-Based Publishing** to help reduce the overall publication times.

Article-based publishing is publishing an article to an "issue in progress" as soon as it is finalised and not having to wait for the entire issue to appear. Until now, articles had to wait until a journal issue was fully complete to be assigned page numbers. Now, every time an individual article is finished, it receives a page range and is published online inside an Issue in Progress. Volume and issue numbering system will remain - as this is the industry standard, and it also provides context to when the article was published - acting as an indicator of the year.

Finally, the Board of the FFLM raised concerns about the relevance of content of the JFLM to the membership. We are grateful to all who participated in the online survey and we will present a summary of those results which help inform both the Faculty and the JFLM on areas in which both can assist the membership.

