



## Journal Editorial/Production Summary Report 2014



# Journal of Forensic and Legal Medicine

*An International journal of Forensic and Legal Medicine*  
*Faculty of Forensic and Legal Medicine*

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Editor-in-Chief: Jason Payne-James

## Overview

### Publication Schedule

2013: Volume 20/8 issues

2014: Volume 21 –Volume 28 (move to multiple volumes with the introduction of Article Based publishing)

### Editorial (EES/EM)

Articles received and processed by the Editorial Office (previous year's values in brackets for comparison). The Journal received over 400 submissions in 2013 and this number is expected to be exceeded in 2014.

### Publication speed (in weeks)

Average editorial time for each article is 23.9 weeks and once accepted the total time to publication is 34.2 weeks (online) and 34.7 to the printed issue.

The comparisons for previous years are shown below. As the submission numbers have increased so the rejection rate increases. It is predicted to be 71% this year,

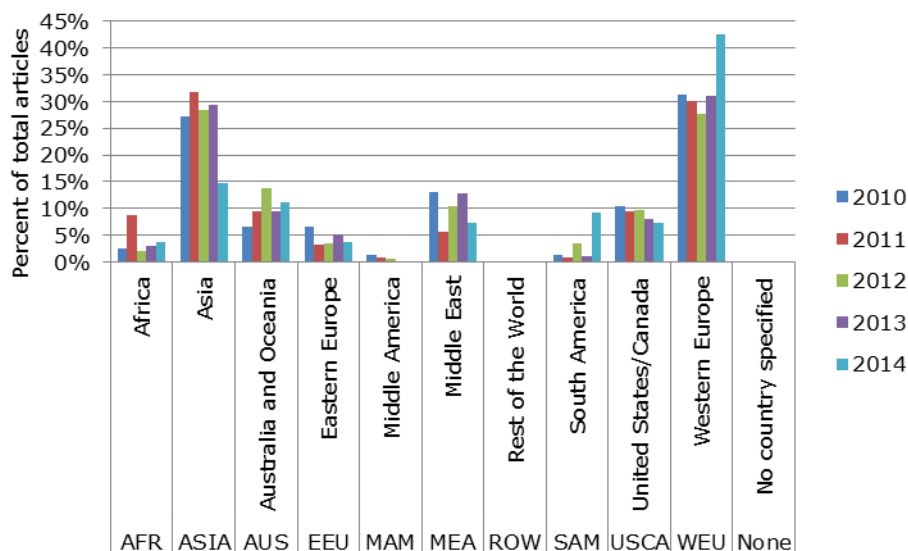
	Subm. No. of articles	Final disposition							
		No. of articles	Processing times (in weeks)			Results			
			Subm. to 1st decn.	Auth. rev. time	Sub. to fin. disp.	Withdrawn	Accepted	Rejected	Rejec. rate
2010	192	165	20.7	6.6	28.8	10	82	73	0.47
2011	251	247	19	6.6	27.8	18	126	103	0.45
2012	323	277	15.7	5.3	25.5	20	143	114	0.44
2013	418	496	14.4	3.9	20	14	213	269	0.56
2014	164	175	6.6	5.3	11.2	7	49	119	0.71

Measurements per 28-Apr-2014

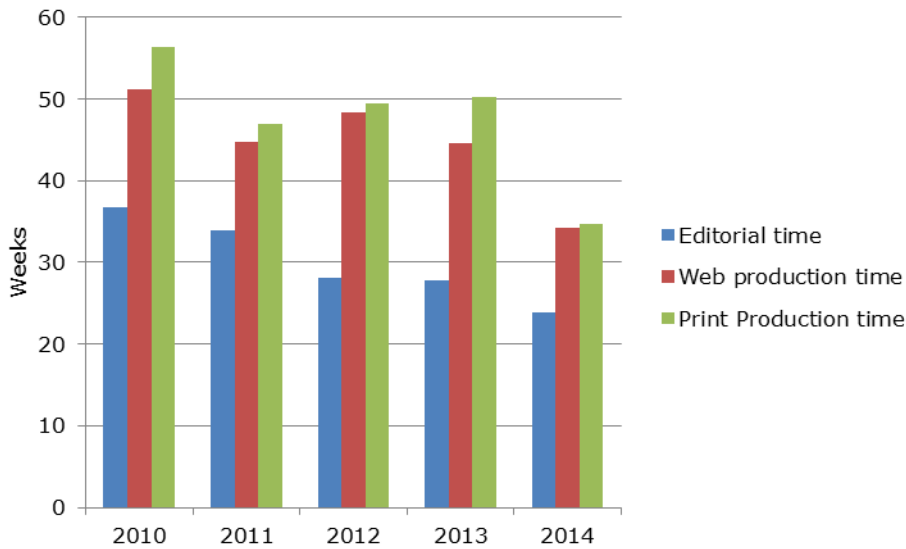
Source <http://nonsolus/opsrep/web/> [Journals] EES-Report18b(1)

## World regions

The figure below shows the current and historical regional breakdown of corresponding authors with a predominance from Asia and Western Europe.



The figure below shows the general improvement in editorial, web and print production time over the last few years despite the increase in submissions.

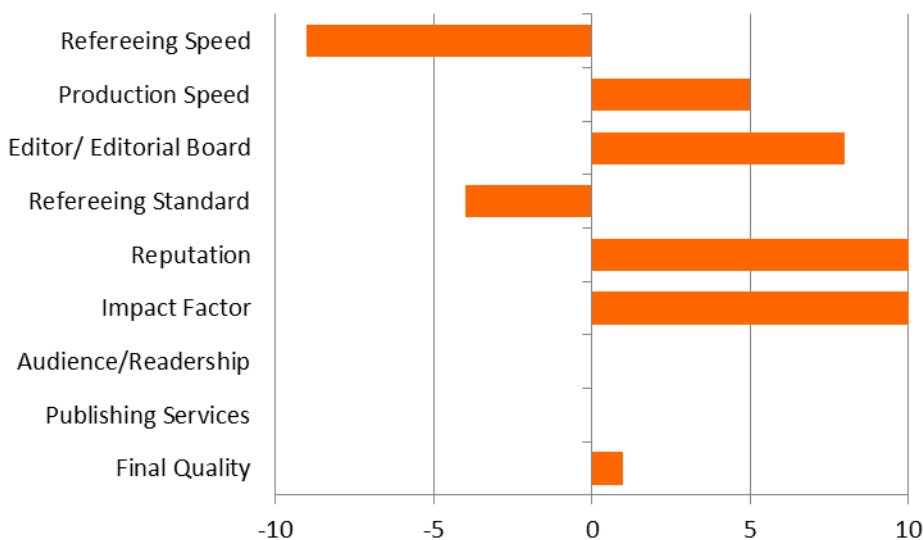


### Author Feedback Program

The Author Feedback Program is a continuous research program monitoring the performance of Elsevier's primary journals. It allows us to closely monitor author opinion and thus journal performance. Authors are invited to rate a number of statements concerning their publishing experience. These statements are grouped into areas, including reputation, peer review, production speed, publishing services, the editorial board and impact factor.

### Benchmarking performance

We also ask the author to rate another journal in which they have recently published. We then compare the score for each area or factor for *Journal of Forensic and Legal Medicine* against the average of all other titles. The "average", which is a convenient benchmark, is zero on the chart. Scores above zero mean for that area, *Journal of Forensic and Legal Medicine* is rated higher than average. Conversely, factor scores below zero, mean for that area, *Journal of Forensic and Legal Medicine* is rated lower than average. The order in which the factors appear in the chart denote their importance to authors (i.e. the first factor listed is, on average, the most important consideration when deciding where to publish for the authors of the journal). Refereeing is a problem for all journals at the moment despite the goodwill and effort put in by our hard-working referees. The low marking reflects dissatisfaction in referee times.



Measurements per September 2013  
 Source <http://nonsolus/authorfeedback/index.asp>

## Impact Factor

We await this years Impact Factor in June. Disappointingly and inexplicably the Impact Factor dropped last year. We anticipate this trends should be reversed.

Bibliometric data from *Journal Citation Reports®*, published by *Reuters Thomson*, Total [cites](#) (The total number of citations to the journal in the JCR year), [impact factor](#), number of articles (The total number of articles published in the journal in the JCR year. An article is any citable item).

Year	Total cites	Impact factor	Articles
2010			
2011	329	1.098	82
2012	463	0.856	100

Measurements per 25-Jun-2013

Source <http://nonsolus/researchacademicrelations/scientometrics/journalimpact/impactfactor/>

## ScienceDirect usage

The table below gives examples from Q4 2013 of the downloaded articles from Science Direct. There is a wide range of article usage.

Downloads	Article title	Vol./iss.	On-line published	Publication date
428	<a href="#">Men as victims of intimate partner violence (Carmo, Rute; Grams, Ana; Magalhaes, Teresa)</a>	18/8	12-Aug-2011	Nov-2011
396	<a href="#">Risk factors in child sexual abuse (Davies, Eryl A.; Jones, Alyson C.)</a>	20/3	13-Jul-2012	Apr-2013
367	<a href="#">Mechanisms of chronic pain from whiplash injury (Davis, Charles G.)</a>	20/2	04-Jul-2012	Feb-2013
296	<a href="#">Are full or empty beer bottles sturdier and does their fracture-threshold suffice to break the human skull? (Bolliger, Stephan A.; Ross, Steffen; Oesterhelweg, Lars; Thali, Michael J.; Kneubuehl, Beat P.)</a>	16/3	07-Nov-2008	Apr-2009
289	<a href="#">DNA Profiling and forensic dentistry - A review of the recent concepts and trends (Manjunath, B.C.; Chandrashekar, B.R.; Mahesh, Melkundi; Vatchala Rani, R.M.)</a>	18/5	23-Mar-2011	Jul-2011
274	<a href="#">A new classification of necrophilia (Aggrawal, Anil)</a>	16/6	28-Jan-2009	Aug-2009
258	<a href="#">Toxicology findings in suicides: Concentrations of ethanol and other drugs in femoral blood in victims of hanging and poisoning in relation to age and gender of the deceased (Jones, Alan Wayne; Holmgren, Anita; Ahlner, Johan)</a>	20/7	08-Aug-2013	Oct-2013
233	<a href="#">Toxicology, circumstances and pathology of deaths from acute alcohol toxicity (Darke, Shane; Dufloy, Johan; Torok, Michelle; Prolov, Tatiana)</a>		18-Sep-2013	
233	<a href="#">Factors and processes causing accelerated decomposition in human cadavers - An overview (Zhou, Chong; Byard, Roger W.)</a>	18/1	10-Nov-2010	Jan-2011
222	<a href="#">Treatment outcomes of chemical castration on Korean sex offenders (Koo, Kyo Chul; Shim, Geum Sook; Park, Hyoun Hee; Rha, Koon Ho; Choi, Young Deuk; Chung, Byung Ha; Hong, Sung Joon; Lee, Jae Woo)</a>	20/6	04-Jul-2013	Aug-2013
204	<a href="#">EEG abnormalities in psychopath and non-psychopath violent offenders (Calzada-Reyes, Ana; Alvarez-Amador, Alfredo; Gal n-Garcia, Lidice; Vald,s-Sosa, Mitchell)</a>	20/1	16-May-2012	Jan-2013
188	<a href="#">Ethanol and drug findings in women consulting a Sexual Assault Center - Associations with clinical characteristics and suspicions of drug-facilitated sexual assault (Hagemann, Cecilie T.; Helland, Arne; Spigset, Olav; Espnes, Ketil A.; Ormstad, Kari; Schei, Berit)</a>	20/6	25-Jun-2013	Aug-2013
183	<a href="#">Fatal intimate partner violence against women in Portugal: A forensic medical national study (Pereira, Ana Rita; Vieira, Duarte Nuno; Magalhaes, Teresa)</a>	20/8	03-Oct-2013	
177	<a href="#">Macroscopically detected female genital injury after consensual and non-consensual vaginal penetration: A prospective comparison study (Lincoln, Catherine; Perera, Rafael; Jacobs, Ian; Ward, Alison)</a>	20/7	15-Aug-2013	Oct-2013
173	<a href="#">Black and green tea - How to make a perfect crime (Bancirova, Martina)</a>	20/6	17-Apr-2013	Aug-2013
168	<a href="#">Osteometric sex determination of burned human skeletal remains (Gonçalves, D.; Thompson, T.J.U.; Cunha, E.)</a>	20/7	17-Aug-2013	Oct-2013
156	<a href="#">Drug facilitated sexual assault - A review (Hall, J.A.; Moore, C.B.T.)</a>	15/5	18-Apr-2008	Jul-2008
152	<a href="#">Improvement of short tandem repeat analysis of samples highly contaminated by humic acid (Seo, Seung Bum; Jin, Hong Xuan; Lee, Hye Young; Ge, Jianye; King, Jonathan L.; Lyoo, Sung Hee; Shin, Dong Hoon; Lee, Soong Deok)</a>	20/7	28-Aug-2013	Oct-2013
152	<a href="#">Excited delirium syndrome (ExDS): Treatment options and considerations (Wilke, Gary M.; Bozeman, William P.; Dawes, Donald M.; DeMers, Gerard; Wilson, Michael P.)</a>	19/3	24-Jan-2012	Apr-2012
148	<a href="#">Diphtheria - 'The strangling angel' of children (Byard, Roger W.)</a>	20/2	24-May-2012	Feb-2013
147	<a href="#">The effect of the prone maximal restraint position with and without weight force on cardiac output and other hemodynamic measures (Savaser, Davut J.; Campbell, Colleen; Castillo, Edward M.; Vilke, Gary M.; Sloane, Christian; Neuman, Tom; Hansen, Allan V.; Shah, Virag; Chan, Theodore C.)</a>	20/8	30-Aug-2013	
145	<a href="#">Estimation of sex from the upper limb measurements of Sudanese adults (Ahmed, Altayeb Abdalla)</a>	20/8	09-Oct-2013	
142	<a href="#">Blood alcohol concentration of suicide victims by partial hanging (Zupanc, Tomaz; Agius, Mark; Paska, Alja Videtic; Pregelj, Peter)</a>	20/8	25-Sep-2013	
141	<a href="#">Comparison between prostate specific antigen and acid phosphatase for detection of semen in vaginal swabs from raped women (Peonim, Vichan; Worasuwannarak, Wisarn; Sujirachato, Kanchana; Teerakamchai, Somsri; Srisont, Smith; Udnoon, Jitta; Chudoung, Ubon)</a>	20/6	10-Jul-2013	Aug-2013
140	<a href="#">Leda and the Swan - And other myths about rape (Norfolk, Guy A.)</a>	18/5	24-May-2011	Jul-2011

The next table shows the nature of articles have been cited in other articles as published since 2011 in [Scopus](#).

Rank	Cited	Details	Link
1	14	Factors and processes causing accelerated decomposition in human cadavers - An overview Zhou, C., Byard, R.W. 2011 Journal of Forensic and Legal Medicine 18 (1) , pp. 6-9	<a href="http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.jflm.2010.10.003">http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.jflm.2010.10.003</a>
2	13	Naphyrone: Analytical profile of the new "legal high" substitute for mephedrone De Paoli, G., Maskell, P.D., Pounder, D.J. 2011 Journal of Forensic and Legal Medicine 18 (2) , pp. 93	<a href="http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.jflm.2010.12.001">http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.jflm.2010.12.001</a>
3	10	Anthropometry of hand in sex determination of dismembered remains - A review of literature Kanchan, T., Krishan, K. 2011 Journal of Forensic and Legal Medicine 18 (1) , pp. 14-17	<a href="http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.jflm.2010.11.013">http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.jflm.2010.11.013</a>
4	8	Health-care issues and health-care use among detainees in police custody Ceelen, M., Dorn, T., Buster, M., Stirbu, I., Donker, G., Das, K. 2012 Journal of Forensic and Legal Medicine 19 (6) , pp. 324-331	<a href="http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.jflm.2012.02.012">http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.jflm.2012.02.012</a>
5	8	Gender determination from hand bones length and volume using multidetector computed tomography: A study in Egyptian people Eshak, G.A., Ahmed, H.M., Abdel Gawad, E.A.M. 2011 Journal of Forensic and Legal Medicine 18 (6) , pp. 246-252	<a href="http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.jflm.2011.04.005">http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.jflm.2011.04.005</a>
6	6	Estimation of stature from cephalo-facial dimensions by regression analysis in Indo-Mauritian population Agnihotri, A.K., Kachhwaha, S., Googoolye, K., Allock, A. 2011 Journal of Forensic and Legal Medicine 18 (4) , pp. 167-172	<a href="http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.jflm.2011.02.006">http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.jflm.2011.02.006</a>
7	6	Human fatalities from wild elephant attacks - A study of fourteen cases Das, S.Kr., Chattopadhyay, S. 2011 Journal of Forensic and Legal Medicine 18 (4) , pp. 154-157	<a href="http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.jflm.2011.01.017">http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.jflm.2011.01.017</a>
8	6	Hair drug testing of children suspected of exposure to the manufacture of methamphetamine Farst, K., Reading Meyer, J.A., Mac Bird, T., James, L., Robbins, J.M. 2011 Journal of Forensic and Legal Medicine 18 (3) , pp. 110-114	<a href="http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.jflm.2011.01.013">http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.jflm.2011.01.013</a>
9	5	Phenazepam: The drug that came in from the cold Maskell, P.D., De Paoli, G., Nitin Seetohul, L., Pounder, D.J. 2012 Journal of Forensic and Legal Medicine 19 (3) , pp. 122-125	<a href="http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.jflm.2011.12.014">http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.jflm.2011.12.014</a>
10	5	Excited delirium syndrome (ExDS): Redefining an old diagnosis Vilke, G.M., Payne-James, J., Karch, S.B. 2012 Journal of Forensic and Legal Medicine 19 (1) , pp. 7-11	<a href="http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.jflm.2011.10.006">http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.jflm.2011.10.006</a>

## Summary

There have been a number of changes to the Journal this year, often led by the publishing rather than editorial needs. The increase of submissions results in rejection of a higher percentage of papers – which is disappointing for authors. I will frequently get questions as to whether an article is appropriate for the Journal. I think that the Instructions to Authors gives clear assistance as to what may or may not be appropriate. With regard to referees and production teams, failure to adhere to Instructions to Authors may result in otherwise appropriate papers requiring revision or even rejection.

I am grateful to Aisling Murphy, Ali Seedhouse for all their hard work on the Journal. I appreciate the efforts of all the reviewers. We encourage submissions from as broad a group as possible. If you want to submit to the Journal please read the Instructions to Authors before, and during submission.