

Breaking into the International Arena: Malaysian Journal of Medical Sciences publishing Report 2013



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Abstract

The most recent Malaysian Journal of Medical Sciences (MJMS)–MyCite report has shown that it has achieved a level becoming of a leading national medical science journal. This editorial reports on submission and acceptance rates of MJMS throughout the year 2013 and their geographical contributors. Our rejection rate of 29.76% with a 21.95% withdrawal rate because of poor quality of content and data as well as plagiarism indicates the seriousness of this journal to maintain the integrity and quality of it's scientific data.

Keywords: audit, report, manuscript, Malaysia, open access, biomedical sciences

Introduction

The 2013 audit of Malaysian Journal of Medical Sciences (MJMS) publications indicated that developing countries contributed a large number of manuscripts that directly “grew” the journal. MJMS was ranked by SCImago Journal & Country Rank 2012 as the top 5 biomedical journal in Malaysia (1). To achieve this feat, MJMS had to undergo tremendous changes (2) in order to make the national and international community acknowledge the existence of this Open Access Asian biomedical journal.

Our readers can currently access quickly our manuscripts in full colour in numerous ways; even when one is in a queue, travelling via high speed train or by the beach as MJMS recently adopted E-Pub an electronic publication which is a sophisticated yet simple method of reading our articles using android application (1).

MJMS Performance in MyCite 2012

The Ministry of Education has always encouraged Malaysian universities to emphasised on quality publications in national SCOPUS and ISI academic journals which created a ripple effect which pushed Malaysian Journal of Medical Sciences up to become a national recognised journal. A journal audit was carried out in 2012

to determine the status and performance of Malaysian journal publications which revealed 464 published scholarly journal titles (3). MyCite 2012 report showed that MJMS SCImago Journal Rank (SJR) index was 0.130, while H-index value was 6 (4). The propose of the Malaysian Citation Centre developing MyCite was basically to endorse assessment of Malaysian based journal as well as their contents and increase their visibility (5). MJMS ranked number 8 out of 112 journals in MyCite according to its H-index value. The H-index is a measurement of the estimation of highly impactful published work performance of a researcher or scholar (6). Based on MyCite yearly impact factor of an academic journal, MJMS was ranked number 29.

In addition, 60 journals indexed in MyCite were categorised in the science, technology, engineering, and medicine field; however, only 34 out of 60 journals garnered an impact factor score. It was an honour to see MJMS ranked number 16 out of 60 Malaysian journals. MyCite also ranked MJMS number 14 for journals by total citation. Total citation stands for the citation count of journal publication cited by other journals indexed in MyCite. The revamped 2014 Editorial board is looking forward to improve MJMS scholarly publications so as to make it more visible worldwide based on the MyCite Malaysia Performance Journal Report 2012.

Submission Gallery Pattern 2011–2013

In the year 2013, MJMS received 205 manuscript submissions with an average of 17 manuscripts submitted per month. Figure 1 showed that the majority of the submissions were original articles compared to other types of manuscripts which were 115 (56.1%). MJMS encouraged authors and researchers to publish review articles, and original articles in the fields of biomedical sciences. The second highest submission rate were 63 case reports (30.73%) followed by 13 review articles (6.34%), 7 brief communications (3.41%), 5 editorials (2.44%), and 2 special communications (0.98%).

Table 1 presents the submission pattern from 2011 until 2013 of MJMS as reported in ScholarOne™ Manuscript (Manuscript Central). In the year 2012, there were 223 manuscript submissions compared to 195 submissions in the year 2011 and 205 submissions in 2013. Although, the number of 2013 submissions declined by 18

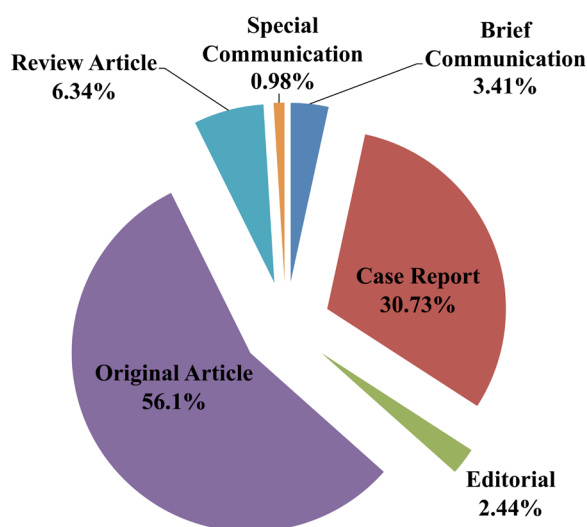


Figure 1: Percentage of manuscripts submitted to Malaysian Journal of Malaysian Sciences in year 2013 via ScholarOne™ Manuscript.

Table 1: Submission pattern from 2011 to 2013 of the Malaysian Journal of Medical Sciences

Submission year	2011	2012	2013
Manuscript number	195	223	205

Table 2: Manuscripts submission according to geographical region

Region	n	%
South–East Asia		
Malaysia	63	30.75
Singapore	5	2.44
Thailand	1	0.49
Brunei Darussalam	1	0.49
East Asia		
Japan	2	0.98
Hong Kong	2	0.98
China	1	0.49
Western Asia		
Yemen	1	0.49
South Asia		
India	49	23.9
Bangladesh	4	1.95
Nepal	1	0.49
Europe		
Germany	1	0.49
Austria	2	0.98
Bulgaria	3	1.46
Poland	1	0.49
United Kingdom	1	0.49
North/Central America		
Anguilla	1	0.49
Cuba	2	0.98
United States	2	0.98
Middle East		
Iraq	2	0.98
Iran	32	15.61
Saudi Arabian	2	0.98
Egypt	1	0.49
Oman	1	0.49
Pakistan	2	0.98
Turkey	6	2.93
Africa		
Nigeria	11	5.37
Ethiopia	1	0.49
Oceania		
Australia	3	1.46
Total	205	100

compared to the previous year, the editorial office were still able to proceed with the production of each issue without shortage of manuscripts.

Country Distribution Submission

In the year 2013, MJMS's geographical contributors increased (Table 2) and we noted submissions from Central America which were Anguilla (1 submission) and Cuba (2 submissions). In the year 2012, the submission region was slightly smaller compared to year 2013. MJMS was intrigued with the new submissions from other continents as it indicated that MJMS was accessible and visible in the global world. We hope that MJMS articles being Open Access and downloadable at no cost would make it accessible to readers all over the world.

Malaysian authors submitted the highest number of manuscript which were 63 manuscripts (30.75%), followed by authors from India 49 (23.9%), Iran 32 (15.61%) and Nigeria 11 (5.37%). Other respective countries also contributed to some extent of expertise in submitting quality manuscripts. The editorial office welcomes more articles from other developing countries that are interested to share their knowledge and technology in the biomedical sciences.

Manuscript status MJMS 2013

Acceptance-rejection rate

The manuscript's decision status for rejection and withdrawal were processed accordingly to the editor's pre-view of manuscripts, plagiarism check, and author's failure to follow the journal format as well as also incomplete submission required files (2). Table 3 showed that 79 manuscripts underwent numerous major revisions (38.54%), whereas the rejection rates for our manuscripts

were 29.76% as well as a withdrawal rate of 21.95%. We noticed most authors did not refer to "Guidelines for Authors" before submitting their manuscript and some manuscript submitted had insufficient data content. This led to an increment of rejection and major revision rates.

Conclusion

The year 2013 has shown to the international community that MJMS has become more visible worldwide. The scholarly manuscripts published by MJMS have proven to have scientific merit since it's manuscripts have been cited by other journals. MJMS performance will strive for improvement to ensure that one day it can be accepted as an ISI journal.

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Table 3: Number of manuscripts by status in year 2013

Manuscript decision	Number of manuscript	Total (%)
Accept	3	1.46
Complete checklist	1	0.49
Major Revision	79	38.54
Minor Revision	16	7.8
Reject	61	29.76
Withdrawn	45	21.95
Total	205	100