

IAOS General Assembly August 2013

Report on the Statistical Journal of the IAOS

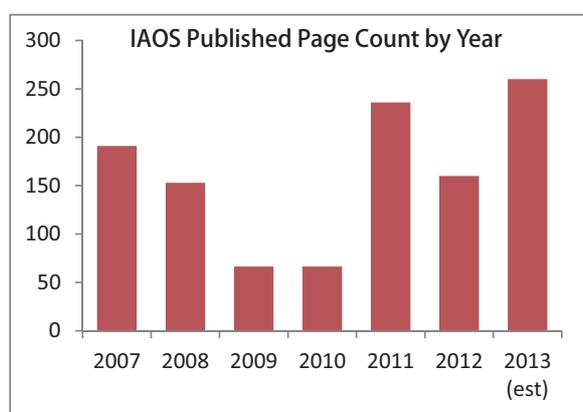


Fig. 1. The estimate assume that the KIEV Conference papers will not be ready until 2014. There will be four issues for 2013.

This note reports on progress with the Journal during 2011 to 2013, including the setting up of a Publishing Committee, tasked with preparing for the next stage of the Journal when the current publishing contract terminates in July 2015.

Progress in the last two years

The appendix shows that during 2011 and 2012 we began to increase our progress in publishing papers compared with earlier years. In 2011 we published special issues on Ethics and Statistical Literacy. In 2012 we published a special issue on Health Statistics, and a general issue in memory of Frank Nolan, partly drawing on papers presented at Dublin and on prize winning Young Statisticians papers. We have this month published the first 2013 issue.

Dr Frank Nolan took over as Editor-in-Chief in January 2011 from Siu-Ming Tam, but died unexpectedly in October 2012. I took over as interim Editor-in-Chief and led the search for a new incumbent. I was delighted that Fritz Scheuren agreed to take over the ba-

ton and become the new Editor-in-Chief in April this year. The rate of publication continues to increase under Fritz with his first issue already published, and two further issues at an advanced stage: this issue Statistical Leadership including interviews with leading official statisticians and commemorating the International Year of Statistics and a further issue, based on the Kiev IAOS 2012 conference 'Getting you messages across', planned for November. Our aim is to move to four quarterly issues and to use the WSC Hong Kong as an opportunity to increase our readership

The future

The Statistical Journal was originally founded as the Statistical Journal of the UNECE in 1984. It was taken over by the IAOS and renamed the Statistical Journal of the IAOS in 2007. In 2007 a publishing contract was agreed with IOS Press, a Dutch publishing company which had previously published the UNECE Journal. The contract was renewed for a period of five years from July 2010 to July 2015. The IAOS Executive Committee has begun to think about publishing arrangements post 2015 and has agreed to set up a Publishing Committee at this General Assembly to develop a draft future strategy for the Statistical Journal.

The growth of publishing on the web has led to a questioning of the current subscription based publishing model used by many professional journals. Currently many journals are accessed through the web only by the reader paying an online access fee. The Open Access movement has argued against this model, saying that research undertaken by public agencies should not be charged for 'twice'. That is, if the taxpayer has funded the research on which an article has been based, the public should not then have to pay to read the article. Their argument is that the author not

the reader should pay the publishing costs. The implication of this for IAOS need to be considered.

A new publishing strategy for IAOS will need to consider questions such as:

1. How often should the journal be published, and how many pages should each issue aim for?
2. Should the journal be web only, available free of charge to everyone? If so:
 - (a) Should there be provision for printed copies? Should this be complete issues or just articles? Who should pay for these?
 - (b) What would the costs of a free web only publication be?
 - (c) Who should pay the publication costs? The author? or should IAOS find alternative funding?
 - (d) If we retain the current 'user pays' model, what should the pricing policy be?

3. Should the IAOS seek to retain copyright of its articles? What are the benefits of this?

Any members of IAOS interested in serving on this Committee should contact me before the General Assembly.

Further information

IAOS publicises the journal on its web site: see <http://isi.cbs.nl/iaos/journal.htm>. This lists the members of the editorial board, the editorial policy and arrangements for submitting papers. It also describes how IAOS members can get free electronic access to the journal.

Stephen Penneck
July 2013