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Abstract

The *Malaysian Journal of Medical Sciences (MJMS)* has conducted a simple analysis of its scholarly publication, based on the auto-generated data compiled from ScholarOne Manuscripts™, an innovative, web-based, submission and peer-review workflow solution for scholarly publishers. The performance of the *MJMS* from 2014–2015 is reported on in this editorial, with a focus on the pattern of manuscript submission, geographical contributors and the acceptance-rejection rate. The total number of manuscript submissions has increased from 264 in 2014, to 272 in 2015. Malaysians are the main contributors to the *MJMS*. The total number of manuscript rejections following the review process was 79 (29.9%) in 2014, increasing to 92 (33.8%) the following year, in accordance with the exacting quality control criteria applied by the journal's editor to the submitted manuscripts.

Keywords: biomedical sciences, Malaysia, manuscripts, *MJMS*, open access, reports

Introduction

The *Malaysian Journal of Medical Sciences (MJMS)* is locally and internationally acknowledged through its open access publication as a reputable biomedical Asian journal (1). The rapid delivery of scholarly content, especially within the Malaysia context, has increased through its hybrid publication, i.e. both in print and electronically.

Pattern of Manuscript Submission to the *MJMS* (2014–2015)

MJMS had been considering the submission of peer-reviewed manuscripts via ScholarOne

Manuscripts™ since June 2009. The number of received manuscript submissions escalated with the introduction of the online manuscript submission facility. In 2014, 264 manuscripts were submitted to the *MJMS*, increasing the following year to 272, as reported on ScholarOne Manuscripts™.

As highlighted in Table 1, the *MJMS* received 536 different types of manuscript submissions, from which 274 original articles, 173 case reports, 39 review articles, 23 brief communications, 15 special communications and 12 editorials. Of the manuscripts submitted to the *MJMS*, original articles were at the top of the list (52%), followed by case reports (33%), review articles

(8%), brief communications (4%) and special communications (3%) (Figure 1).

Table 1: The number of manuscripts by type submitted via ScholarOne Manuscripts™ between 1 January 2014 and 21 December 2015

Manuscript type	Number of manuscript submissions
Original article	274
Case report	173
Review article	39
Brief communication	23
Special communication	15
Editorial	12
Total	536

Geographical Contributors to the MJMS (2014–2015)

Evidence of the *MJMS*' high visibility globally suggests that scholars in other regions worldwide recognise the quality of this publication, value it (2), and choose to use the *MJMS* publication platform through which to publish their research findings. The journal's visibility was boosted and the number of submissions increased notably when publication in, and information on, the journal, could be accessed electronically (3).

Between 1 January 2014 and 31 December 2015, a total of 536 authors from 32 countries contributed manuscripts to the *MJMS*. As expected, the highest number of contributors were Malaysian (215 authors), followed by India (142 authors), the Islamic Republic of Iran (76 authors), Indonesia (16 authors), Turkey (8 authors) and other Asian countries (40 authors) (Table 2).

The *MJMS* also received manuscript submissions from the African continent where medicine in this continent has been recognised by the world to be well developed, long before its development in Greece and other European countries (4). Nigeria was the country which has contributed the most with 18 manuscripts, followed by Ethiopia (2 manuscripts), Egypt, Kenya and Libya with 1 manuscript, respectively.

United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland of the European country has contributed three manuscripts so far, whereas Austria, Denmark, Greece, Ireland and Ukraine contributed 1 manuscript, respectively.

The Oceania countries like Australia contributed two manuscripts whereas New Zealand contributed one manuscript. *MJMS*

received three manuscripts from the United States whereas countries from the South America such as Brazil and Colombia contributed one manuscript, respectively.

Table 2: The number of manuscripts by country submitted via ScholarOne Manuscripts™ between 1 January 2014 and 31 December 2015

Submitting authors' country	Number of manuscripts submitted
Asia	
Malaysia	215
India	142
The Islamic Republic of Iran	76
Indonesia	16
Turkey	8
Iraq	7
Pakistan	7
Saudi Arabia	7
Bangladesh	5
Nepal	3
Thailand	3
Singapore	3
Hong Kong	2
Japan	1
Philippines	1
Syrian Arab Republic	1
Africa	
Nigeria	18
Ethiopia	2
Egypt	1
Kenya	1
Libya	1
Europe	
The United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	3
Austria	1
Denmark	1
Greece	1
Ireland	1
Ukraine	1
Oceania	
Australia	2
New Zealand	1
North America	
United States	3
South America	
Brazil	1
Colombia	1
Total	536

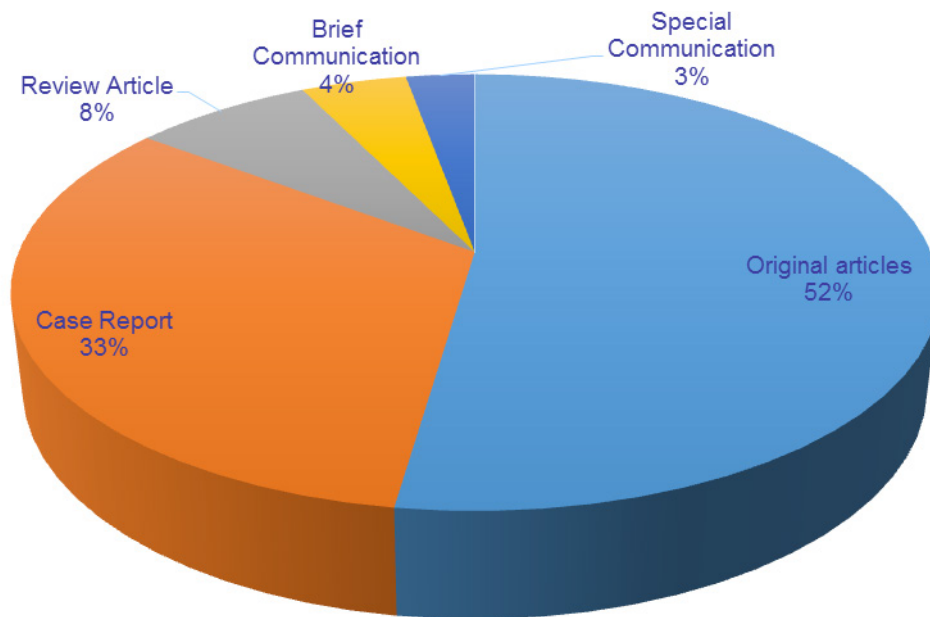


Figure 1: The percentage of manuscripts by type submitted via ScholarOne Manuscripts™ between 1 January 2014 and 31 December 2015

Table 3: Manuscript status (2014–2015)

Manuscript decision	2014	2015
	n (%)	n (%)
Accepted	11 (4.2)	5 (1.8)
Reviewers were assigned to the manuscripts	–	4 (1.5)
Reviewer scores for the manuscripts were awaited	–	4 (1.5)
Major revision	81 (30.7)	64 (23.5)
Minor revision	31 (11.7)	31 (11.4)
Rejected	79 (29.9)	92 (33.8)
Rejected as inappropriate	7 (2.7)	1 (0.4)
Withdrawn by the author	55 (20.8)	71 (26.1)
Total	264.0	272.0

Manuscript Status of the MJMS (2014–2015)

Acceptance-rejection rate

It is imperative that authors carefully study and understand the author submission guidelines of a given journal before proceeding with the submission of their manuscript. Failure to

comply with the requirements may result in early rejection (without revision) or withdrawal of the manuscript.

Decisions about the rejection or acceptance of a manuscript for publication are taken after the reviewing process is complete.

Eleven (4.2%) manuscripts were accepted for publication in the MJMS in 2014, with this figure declining to 5 (1.8%) in 2015 (Table 3). Eighty-one manuscripts (30.7%) required major

revision in 2014, compared to only 64 (23.5%) the following year. Thirty-one (11.7%) manuscripts required minor revision in 2014. This figure remained the same the following year, but with a slight difference in the percentage (11.4%). Seventy-nine manuscripts (29.9%) were totally rejected after review in 2014, and this figure increased to 92 (33.8%) the following year. Seven (2.7%) manuscripts were rejected owing to inappropriateness in 2014, declining to 1 (0.4%) in 2015. Overall manuscript withdrawal increased from 55 (20.8%) in 2014 to 71 (26.1%) in 2015.

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