

Current Products and Practice

A Review of Some Orthodontic Journals

Original article

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Today, research is increasingly scrutinized: if funding is required, grant awarding bodies look at applications to see if they feel they are worth supporting; governments indicate areas that they specifically wish to have investigated and like to see direct clinical applications. Universities, too, are faced with increasing pressures to get as much work as possible published in quality journals in these days of the Research Assessment Exercise (RAE). As a result of the RAE, departments are competing more and more with each other to gain a higher position in the research 'league', since the RAE results have significant effects on their funding and status. Furthermore, as clinical governance sets in, one means of demonstrating clinical worth is by publishing results of studies undertaken to see how one compares with others, i.e. to show whether you are doing a good job. Consequently, whether you are a clinician, academic, or both, it is essential that when an article is submitted for publication, it is sent to the right place for that particular paper.

The following tabulated information is therefore intended to be an 'at a glance guide' to some of the things which it maybe helpful to consider when getting an article ready for possible publication. For example, how does one assess what a 'quality' journal is? One increasingly encountered means is to use the 'impact factor' of a journal. This is defined by the Journal Citation Reports as: '... a measure of the frequency with which the "average article" in a journal has been cited in a particular year. The impact factor helps you to evaluate a journal's relative importance, especially when it is compared to others in the same field.' It is calculated by 'dividing the number of current citations to articles published in the two previous years by the total number of articles published in the two previous years', although a 5-year period may sometimes be used instead. Thus, the larger the number, the higher (and better) the impact factor of a journal. Whilst this maybe of some help and value, nevertheless, it is open to interpretation and can be influenced by, for instance, subject, language, journal history, and format, as well as publishing schedule. Consequently, for a relatively specialist field such as Orthodontics, it may actually be virtually impossible for a journal to achieve a high impact factor. As a result of all this, it is probably not helpful to consider it in isolation. Furthermore, there is little point in sending a paper to a journal with a high impact factor, but which is unlikely to have a readership interested in it as the paper may not be accepted for publication.

Space constraints do not allow for all journals which maybe of interest to orthodontists to be covered, so only some of the main English language Orthodontic journals are included here. In addition, the reader should be aware that the information is not exhaustive—you must still refer

to the information/guidance for authors/contributors in the particular journal you are considering. By the way, if dealing with the World Wide Web is confusing, referral to the article by Benson (1997) on 'Orthodontics on the World Wide Web' might be helpful. However, I would like to thank the editors of the various journals I approached for their help in supplying and confirming (or correcting) the information given in the details which follow. The information covered in Table 1 has been abstracted from:

- (1) the most recent issues of the journals, available at the time of writing;
- (2) websites where available;
- (3) responses (where provided) from the journals' editors.

Finally, there are some new developments, which might be of interest to readers. *The Angle Orthodontist* stated that the journal has a broad international following and have cut their backlog of articles to the minimum. In the year 2000, a new editor, Professor Robert J. Isaacson of Richmond, Virginia will take over from Dr David L. Turpin, who will then become editor of American Journal of Orthodontics and Dentofacial Orthopedics. Another U.S.A.-based journal, the *Journal of Clinical Orthodontics*, wished to emphasize that they consider the needs of the orthodontic reader to be first and foremost in all editorial decisions.

In the U.K., as part of the continuing evolution of the *British Journal of Orthodontics*, to reflect the changes in the discipline, readers' needs, and its increasingly international distribution of submitted papers, the journal has been renamed in March 2000 *Journal of Orthodontics*. It is to be relaunched at the American and World meeting in Chicago, in Spring 2000. As well as a new name, it is also hoped it will move gradually to full colour, although the separate clinical, scientific, and features sections will remain.

The pressures applied to orthodontics and developments within the speciality are likely to increase as indicated earlier and for these reasons, journals will likewise develop in response to the demands of their readership. For example, on-line versions of journals are now readily available, and will probably be used more and more as readers begin to appreciate the value of such tools (links from references to Medline abstracts to name but one). Clearly then, this is an area which needs to be watched in order to get the most out of the scientific literature.

Suggested Further Reading and References

Benson, P. E. (1997)

Orthodontic Products Update: Orthodontics on the World Wide Web, *British Journal of Orthodontics*, **24**, 335–338.

Radford, D. R., Smillie, L., Wilson, R. F. and Grace, A. M. (1999)

The criteria used by editors of scientific dental journals in the assessment of manuscripts submitted for publication, *British Dental Journal*, **187**, 376–379.

TABLE 1 Summary of potential factors to consider when submitting a paper for publication in some English language Orthodontic journals.

Key to table: yr/yr = year/years. *Editorial Board subject to change in 2000.

Journal	Editor	Associate or other editors	Editorial Board
<i>The American Journal of Orthodontics and Dentofacial Orthopaedics (AJODO)</i>	T. M. Graber – Editor in Chief	Alex Jacobson Joseph Zernik Laurance Jerrold Gerald Nelson Martin N. Abelson Leslie A. Will Robert P. Scholz Zane Muhl Demetrios J. Halazonetis Michael Meyer James L. Vaden B. F. Dewel Brent E. Larson	Gerald D. Nelson Lysle E. Johnston Jr William A. Mitchell Jr Ashur G. Chavoor Paul J. McKenna Jr Robert S. Freeman William F. Stutts Perry M. Opin Lee E. Graber Jaime De Jesús-Viñas
<i>The Angle Orthodontist (AO)</i>	Dr David L. Turpin (from 2000, Prof. Robert J. Isaacson)	Vincent D. G. Kokich Sheldon Peck Robert M. Rubin	Over 40 members with representation from around the world including USA, Asia, Europe and Scandinavia.
<i>The British Journal of Orthodontics (Journal of Orthodontics from 2000) (JO)</i>	Prof ML Jones	Assistant editors: Mr P Durning, Prof N. P. Hunt Dr R. Oliver	Professor D. Drescher Professor N. P Hunt Professor M. L Jones Professor J. McCabe Professor K. O'Brien Professor S. Richmond Professor J. Sandy Professor K. Soma Dr R. Newcombe (Statistical Advisor) Dr R. Oliver Dr G. Semb Mr P. Durning Mrs L. Mitchell Mr R. Mordecai *
<i>The European Journal of Orthodontics (EJO)</i>	Prof F. McDonald	Mr R. Evans	Professor C. E. Carels (Belgium) Professor P. H. Démogé (France) Professor J. P. Joho (Switzerland) Professor S. Kiliaridis (Switzerland) Professor F. Magni (Italy) Professor O. V. Rönning (Finland) Professor P. Rygh (Norway) Professor G. P. F. Schmuth (Germany) Professor B. Solow (Denmark) Professor M. N. Spyropoulos (Greece) Dr C. Booy (Netherlands) Dr M-P. Filluel (France) Dr C-M. Forsberg (Sweden) Dr R. G. Gonzalez (Spain)
<i>The Journal of Clinical Orthodontics (JCO)</i>	Editor: Dr Larry W. White Senior Editor: Eugene L. Gottlieb	C. J. Burstone T. D. Creekmore B. Melsen J. J. Sheridan P. M. Sinclair B. U. Zachrisson	There are 20 contributing editors, mostly U.S.A.-based, but also including representatives from the U.K., Italy, France, and the Netherlands, Taiwan, Mexico and Canada

TABLE 1 (Continued)

Key to table: yr/yr = year/years. *Editorial Board subject to change in 2000.

Journal	Target audience or article type	Publication frequency	Costs	Is colour printing available?	Any special arrangements for colour printing?
AJODO	Articles on original research, clinical observations, or investigations on recent advances; review articles on orthodontic and related subjects; editorials; news, comments, and service announcements; and letters to the editor.	Each volume is covered in 6 issues per year.	Institutional: US \$262 rest of world US \$291 Personal US \$128; rest of world US \$157 (check journal for Canada, Mexico, Japan and India).	Yes	Special arrangements must be made with the editor for inclusion of four-colour illustrations (because of the high costs). Authors desiring colour reproduction will be required to pay part or all of the cost.
AO	The EH Angle Education and Research Foundation invites researchers and clinicians to submit papers on any biological or technological subject related to the dentofacial complex. Original research, clinical observations and review articles, as well as guest editorials, letters to the editor and case reports are welcome.	Published bimonthly in 6 issues.	Institutional: 1 yr US \$110; 2 yrs \$210. Personal: 1 yr US \$80; 2 yrs U.S. \$155. Outside U.S.A: 1 yr US \$90; 2 yrs \$175.		No additional cost.
JO	International contributions welcomed Its aim is to publish clinical and research papers of interest to orthodontists in Britain and throughout the world. The journal is published by the British Orthodontic Society.	Quarterly: March, June, September, and December.	Personal with online access: 1 yr UK/Europe £110; rest of world US \$195; 2 yrs UK/Europe £220; rest of world US \$390. On-line only: 1 yr UK/Europe £99; rest of world US \$176; 2 yrs UK/Europe £198; rest of world US \$352. The annual subscription to the BOS includes the cost of this journal. Non-members are invited to order from the publishers.	Yes	Colour considered if its use makes significant contribution to the value of the paper and will be published at the editor's discretion and subject to availability (but journal converting towards full colour, from 2000) Two sets of colour prints will be required for each illustration together with the <i>original</i> slides (35-mm transparencies) from which they were made.
EJO	The journal publishes (in English) research or clinical papers of interest to all orthodontists. Although the primary intention is to provide a forum for orthodontists in Europe, the journal welcomes papers from all parts of the world.	Each volume is covered in 6 issues per year.	Institutional: UK/Europe £164; Rest of world: US \$286 Personal: UK/Europe £138; Rest of world US \$231 On-line only: UK/Europe £148; Rest of World: US \$258	Yes	No
JCO	The submission of original articles, technique clinics, clinical aides and case reports related to the practice of orthodontics are invited.	Monthly, i.e. each volume is covered in 12 issues per year	Institutional: Europe/rest of world US \$235 USA US \$195 Personal: Europe/rest of world US \$185 USA US \$140	Yes	Colour is used at editors' discretion and original slides are preferable to duplicate prints for colour reproduction. Slides are returned after publication.

TABLE 1 (Continued)

Key to table: yr/yr = year/years. *Editorial Board subject to change in 2000.

Journal	How are the referees selected?	Is a list published or accessible of who the referees are?	Approximate time to publication once article accepted	Impact Factor	Are papers sent for separate statistical report?	Web page
AJODO	Relies on an extensive list of internationally renowned referees and consultants.	No information	No information	0.522	No information	www.mosby.com/AJODO The Web page is intended to be an active means of communication: future tables of contents, continuing education information, abstracts, special news, and forthcoming events will be published. The AAO has established an Informatics Committee which will also be involved. Suggestions are solicited to provide optimal communication.
AO	Specific expertise is the only requirement plus a history of thorough reviews	Yes, periodically	6 months	0.46	Yes	www.AngleOrthodontist.org Site can be used to preview the table of contents, the editorial of the coming journal edition or to review contents of past issues. Also accessible: subscription information and how to submit a manuscript for publication. To know what lies ahead, browse the 'Articles Accepted for Publication' section for abstracts of articles you will see in The Angle Orthodontist in the coming months.
JO	Sub-editors with identifiable areas of expertise (or the Editor in specific cases) select two referees to send the manuscript to.	Not published but accessible. Sub-editors who oversee sections of the journal and areas of interest are published in each issue.	Usually 6–9 months	Applied for	Yes, when recommended by referees/sub-editor or editor. A sample of papers is sent annually to the statistical advisor for an assessment of the general standards.	www.oup.co.uk/bortho Online version of the journal provides advance notice of papers to be published and allows access to a fully searchable back file of papers. If your library has a print subscription (and has completed and returned the registration form for a site licence) you will be able to access the <i>Journal of Orthodontics</i> from your own desktop at no charge to yourself. If you have a personal subscription, online access is also included. There is now also a Table of Contents Alerting Service via the website.
EJO	According to subject of manuscript, geographical area, their experience and publication of articles in that particular field.	No	5–11 months	0.4	Yes	www.ejo.oupjournals.org Online journal version makes the full text of articles available. If your library has a print subscription (and has completed the registration form) you can go straight into <i>European Journal of Orthodontics</i> Online from your own desktop. If you have a personal subscription, inline access is also included.
JCO	By Editor, Senior Editor and Managing Editor	Primarily use the editorial board published in each issue.	6 months	Not known	Yes	Available soon: jco-online.com