

## **Editorial**

### ***Annual Journal Entries***

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Annually, the following report provides the reader with an analysis of manuscripts submitted for review and publication. The *Journal* tracks those issue items that might indicate changes in the ways authors communicate bulk information to their readership. This is the sixth year of the *Journal*, and this review continues to include in the statistics addressed in the previous issues. This year the analysis includes statistics about the *Journal's* web page usage and a comparison between the *Journal* and its sister publications, The Annual Conference Proceedings and The American Professional Constructor.

#### **Vital Statistics**

*Number of manuscripts accepted vs. rejection.* There were fifteen manuscripts published during the past year. Twenty-six manuscripts were submitted for review, nine were rejected as not being acceptable for publication. This provides the *Journal* with a forty-five percent rejection rate. This is similar to that reported in previous five years (see Figure 1).

*Average number of pages per published manuscript.* There was a change in the number of pages per manuscript. The average was 8.87, which was a positive change of -2.22 from the previous year.

*Average number of images, tables, and appendices.* Within this volume, images averaged 3.07 images per manuscript that is 1.02 more than that of the prior year. Tables decreased -0.97 per manuscript to an average of 0.80. Attachments decreased from 0.45 per manuscript to 0.27. Figure 2 is a graph of the statistics from 1996 to 2001.

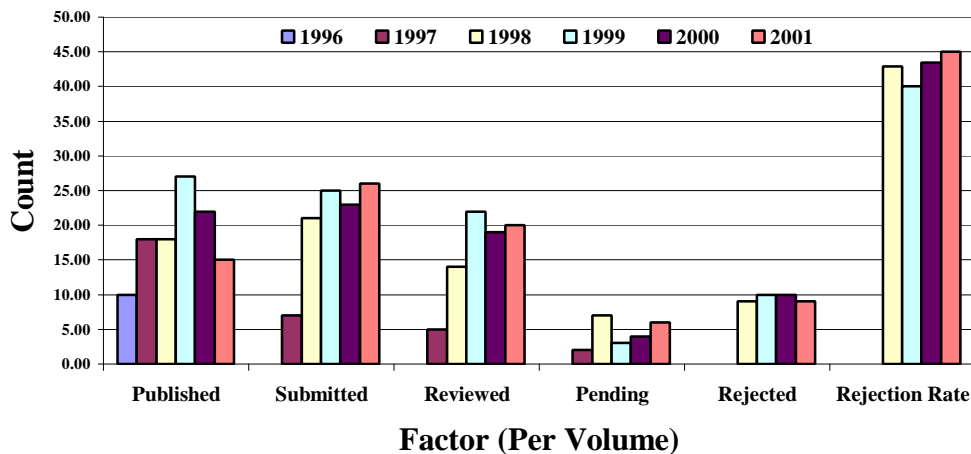


Figure 1. Publication and Submission Data

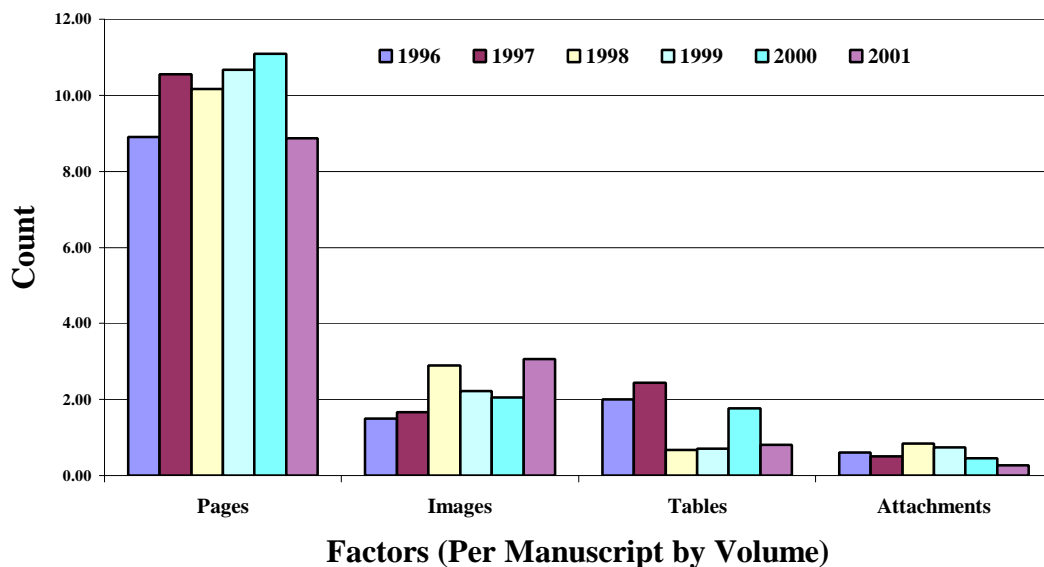


Figure 2. Manuscript Description Data

Figure 3 illustrates the hits received on the index page of the *Journal* for each month since April 2001. Prior data was not maintained in a usable format and therefore cannot be reported. The *Journal's* usage soars after each issue is published.

Figure 4 illustrates the where browsers are going within the *Journal* for the same time period. The manuscript archive received 42.22% of the browsing volume. This would indicate that the *Journal* is truly being used as an archival source by its readership. An interesting statistic is the 15% value for the reviewer-listing page. This indicates that readers are interested in the identity of our reviews. This should provide an effective argument for Review Board membership.

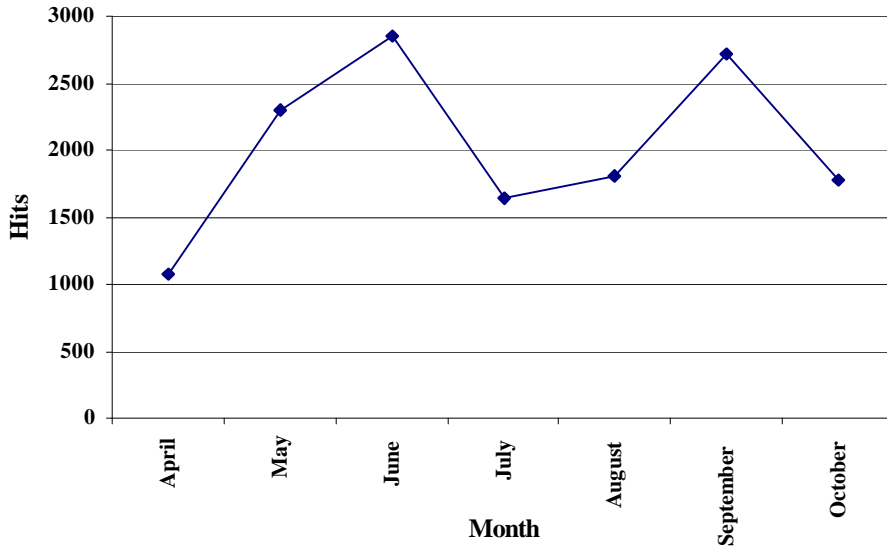


Figure 3. Journal Web Site Hits

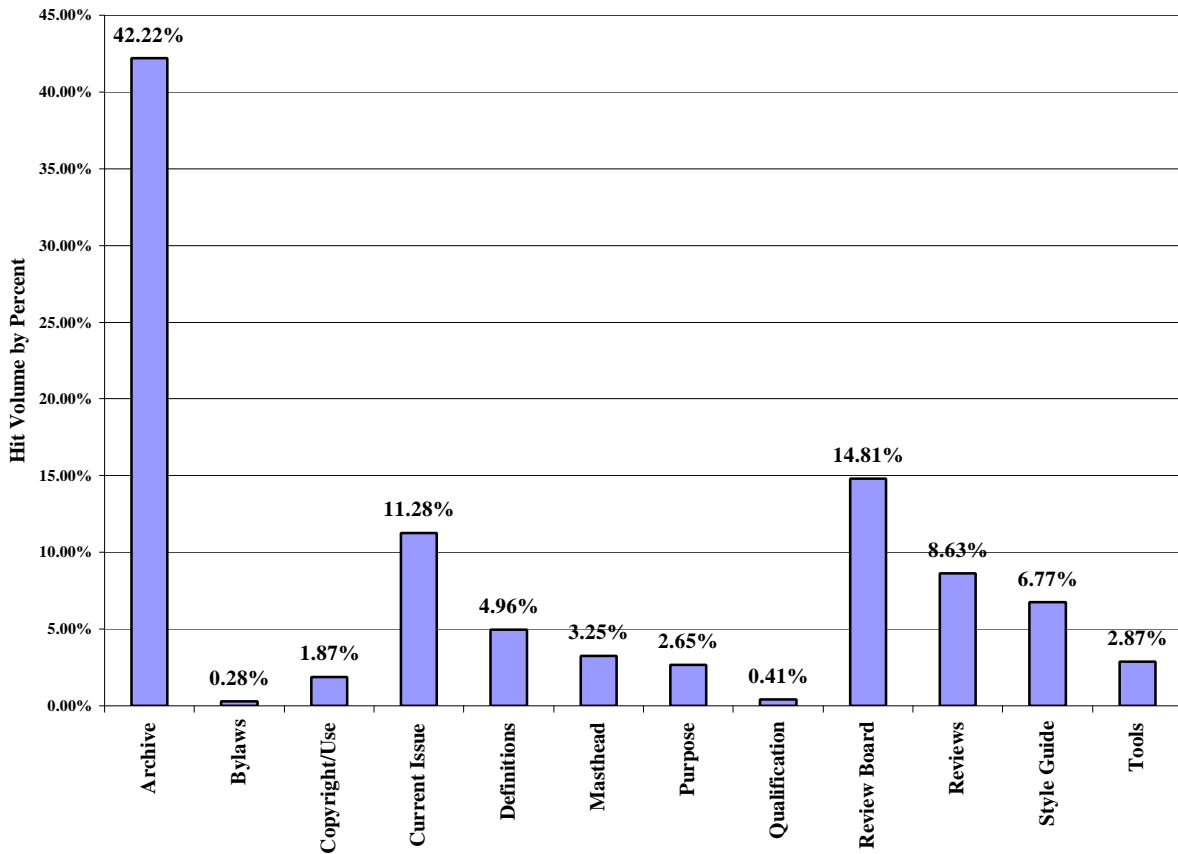


Figure 4. Hits by Page Category

## Publication Comparisons

One of the concerns identified at the founding of the JCE was that its publication could seriously affect the AIC's journal while little concern was expressed for affect on the ASC proceedings publication. Three time periods are important to the reader. First is the period between 1973 and 1986, in which the AIC's journal "*The American Professional Constructor*" was the sole publication source for those closely aligned with the mission of the ASC. In 1986, academic pressures and the need of the ASC to record its annual conference proceedings formally lead to the publication of the "*Annual ASC Conference Proceedings*". Lastly, the period after 1996 represents the publication of the "*Journal of Construction Education*," as an enhanced response to academic pressures and a need for an education manuscript publication source.

The ASC Board of Directors was first presented with a proposal for the JCE in 1990. In 1992, they requested a survey be conducted within the ASC membership to determine if there was faculty support for a journal. The following year a report was provided to the Board that indicated that 82% of the membership's faculty wanted an education journal. At that time, the AIC journal was not publishing education manuscripts with pedagogy content and most academic programs accepted the ASC proceedings as equal to a journal publication. The ASC Board voted not to proceed with an ASC journal and elected to work with the AIC by encouraging it to publish pedagogy works. In 1994, the AIC agreed to dedicate one issue per volume of its publication to educational manuscripts, however this was never truly embraced or acted upon by the AIC. The analysis of publications within the AIC's journal indicates that within the three time periods the publication of educational manuscripts has never exceeded 11% of total publication. The membership and publication emphasis of the AIC is directed toward industry professionals and not toward the academic educator. As a result, in 1996 the JCE became a reality responding to years of academic efforts and needs within the academic community.

In response to the initial ASC Board concerns, a comparison between the *Journal* publication and its sister publications has been provided. Data for the following illustration was gathered from prior ASC proceedings, AIC journals, and the JCE database (see Figure 5).

The data indicates that the AIC journal is responsive to the actions of the ASC publication efforts. Before the ASC proceeding publication, the AIC journal was having difficulties in attracting authors. Dramatically in 1986, its number of publications increased proportionally mirroring that of the ASC proceedings. Of interest to this analysis is the effect of the JCE upon its sister publications. The first effect with the least significance is between the proceedings and the JCE. There has been an observable minor negative effect upon publication within the proceedings, however as always, there are probably confounding non-identified variables at play. The overall authorship within the ASC proceedings continues to increase which has cause difficulties in physical publication efforts. In response to this the ASC proceedings Editor/Publisher has reduced the page count from 15 to 10.

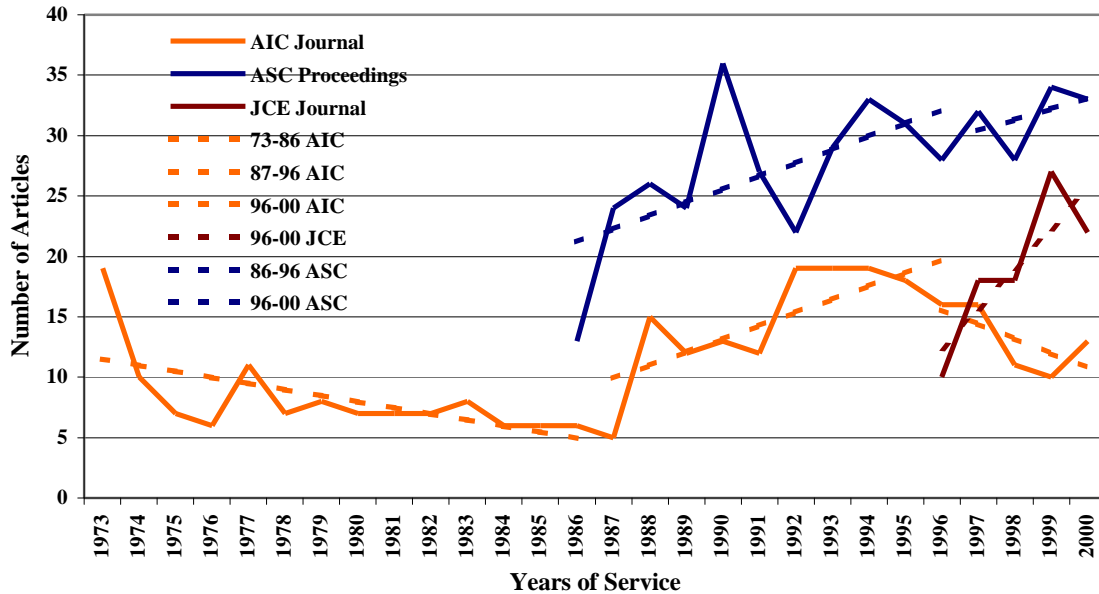


Figure 5. Interaction Effects between Selected Publications by Period of Activity

The final effect to be discussed is the interaction between the AIC journal and the JCE. The JCE has had a significant effect upon publications within the AIC journal. This was not an effect intended by the ASC Board or the JCE. The question that begs to be answered is why. The answer could be that the JCE has published both practice and pedagogy manuscripts at the direction of the ASC Board an activity which is counter to the mission of the JCE. By ASC Board vote, the ASC proceedings for the years 1996 and 1997 were grand fathered into the JCE. This immediately responded to those faculty that needed to publish at the highest level of publication, a journal. As a result, ASC member faculty did not continue to submit their works to a journal outside of the ASC. This is probably the result of association and membership. Few of the ASC member faculty are members of the AIC and therefore may wish to publish and inform their academic associates of their works. Academia within construction education has continued to evolve to match that of the remaining academic body, which requires journal publication for tenure and promotion.

The response of the JCE has been to cease accepting practice manuscript submissions, as of this issue, and to abide by its stated mission and purpose of pedagogy publications at the direction of its Advisory Board. However, does this action meet the needs of the ASC member faculty? Is the AIC's journal the publication outlet for these works that are intended to communicate practice issues to academia? In that few ASC faculty have membership or access to the AIC journal it would be ludicrous to expect such a result. If the ASC membership has the desire to inform its academic community of practice issues then it must do so through an ASC practice journal and not within the AIC's journal which has an industry readership. It is also the responsibility and duty of the ASC and the JCE to ensure that the AIC's journal remains a viable publication true to its industry mission while responding to the academic and pedagogical needs of our ASC membership and JCE authors and readers.