Journal of Surgery at its 10th Anniversary

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Abstract

Journal of Surgery [Jurnalul de chirurgie] is now at its 10th anniversary. It was developed after the success of the first Romanian medical e-teaching/e-learning platform, www.laparosurg.ro. The mains goals of the new journal were to ensure a powerful platform for medical information/education and to allow to the residents and young doctors to publish and share their research work. Even from its first volume Journal of Surgery was included in DOAJ (Directory of Open Access Journals) a worldwide data base developed by Lund University from Sweden. Then, the journal was included in other prestigious international databases as Index Copernicus and EBSCO Academic. During the last 9th volumes, Journal of Surgery published 547 scientific articles that means 60.77 ± 13.07 articles yearly (median 55; range 44 to 86) distributed in 4175 pages (463.89 ± 117.23 pages/year, median 421, range: 372 to 721). The overall tendency was to slightly increase the number of articles. It is important to note the stability of published editorials, multimedia, case reports, surgical technique notes and history of surgery articles; furthermore due to the tightening of the peer review process we noted a bipolar tendency regarding original papers and review type articles: to increase the number of original paper and, respectively, to decrease the number of reviews. In this way the review type articles decreased from over ten articles per year (the first 4 issues) to 5 and respectively, 7 in the last two years, and the original articles increased from about 12/year in the first 4 years to over 20 in the last three years. The citation of Journal of Surgery's articles is also on an increasing tendency. A brief electronic data research revealed 142 citations (from 386 articles studied). The other overall scientific data measurements are: 0.37 cites/paper, 15.78 cites/year an h-index of 5 and a g-index of 9. In this era of globalization, of open access, of "impact factor", of performance and "performance" classifications, the surgical journals are "under pressure". The only way to evolve, to improve the scientific content and to be "more international" is to open all the barriers and misconceptions. In this way, Journal of Surgery has joined to OMICS group. This new collaboration allows us to further develop the Journal (with a primary objective to be included in PubMed and then in ISI) and to widely open the Romanian surgery to the world. Furthermore we want to offer to the young doctors a powerful surgical education platform and a real chance to share their work to their colleagues from all-around the world.

However, our goal to represent Romanian surgery is not forgotten; so, Journal of Surgery will preserve a Romanian language section for the articles submitted in Romanian. We want to warmly thank to all our readers, editors, members of scientific committee and especially to our contributors who helped us during the years to develop Journal of Surgery. We'll remain your true fellows and we invite you to further collaborate with Journal of Surgery.

Keywords: Journal of surgery; Scientific Data; Scientific metrics

Editorial

Journal of Surgery [Jurnalul de chirurgie] is now at the 10th volume; ten volumes and respectively ten years of unbreakable and continuous publication without missing or multiple issues.

Journal of Surgery was developed after the success of the first Romanian medical e-teaching/e-learning platform, www.laparosurg.ro, edited by First Unit of Surgery, Department of Surgery, University of Medicine and Pharmacy "Gr. T. Popa" Iasi, Romania [1]. The mains goals of the new project were to ensure a powerful platform for medical information/education and to allow to the residents and young doctors to publish and share their research work. In this way, Journal of Surgery was designed as an online surgical magazine which was publishing the "classical" types of articles (editorials, reviews and up-to-date articles, original papers and case reports) but also new types as surgical technique notes (how to do it …) and surgical anatomy papers, as well as multimedia articles (power point presentation of lectures or videos). To highlight the Romanian surgical tradition, a *history of surgery* section was also created. Now, this section includes two types of articles, the "standard type" with articles from history of surgery and "Arch beyond time" section developed by Prof. N.M. Constantinescu, which continues the similar section from Romanian surgical magazine *Chirurgia [Surgery]* which re edits and comments older articles published in *Chirurgia [Surgery]* during the dawn of 20th century. To allow a wide opening to the young doctors, *Journal of Surgery* was sharing the open access concept described even from the dawn of the Modern Era by Ralph Waldo Emerson: "*knowledge exists to be imparted*" [2]. So, even from its first volume *Journal of Surgery* was included in DOAJ (Directory of Open Access Journals) a worldwide data base developed by Lund University from Sweden [3]. Then, the journal was included in other prestigious international databases as Index Copernicus and EBSCO Academic. A

plan to include *Journal of Surgery* in PubMed is in course; in this way a first evaluation in 2012 noted a score of 3.5 from 5 in term of scientific and technical issues.

From then a new protocol to improve data transfer (metadata format, XML format) was implemented and a new academic interface for *.pdf documents (two columns, academic presentation for tables and pictures) was designed. From two years, *Journal of Surgery* was included in CrossRef* and a DOI (Digital Object Identifier) was attributed: 10.7438/1584-9341. In this way the interrelations with different databases and citations reports were improved.

From the beginning *Journal of Surgery* was published under the appointment of the First Surgical Unit, Department of Surgery of "Gr. T. Popa" University of Medicine and Pharmacy Iaşi, Romania and with the constant help of "St. Spiridon" Trustee Iaşi; then, *Journal of Surgery* was recognized as an important tool in medical education and research dissemination, and in present days, is affiliated to *Romanian Society of Surgery* and *Academy of Medical Sciences Iaşi*.

The increasing of the scientific level of the published articles was a constant concern; in this way systematic peer review process was developed. The needs of young doctors to share their work and to find in the journal's pages a real tool for their surgical education led us to keep and develop the "case report" and "surgical technique" sections.

In our opinion, despite the actual tendency of the scientific journals to give up to this type of articles, these articles are really necessary for medical education; in fact this policy reflects the thoughts of philosophers: *"you teach what you have to learn"* [4] and respectively, *"the art of teaching is the art of assisting discovery"* [5].

So, during the last 9th volumes, Journal of Surgery published 547 scientific articles … that means 60.77 ± 13.07 articles yearly (median 55; range 44 to 86) distributed in 4175 pages … (463.89 ± 117.23 pages/year, median 421, range: 372 to 721). The overall tendency was to slightly increase the number of articles. It is important to note the stability of published editorials, multimedia, case reports, surgical technique notes and history of surgery articles (Figure 1); furthermore due to the tightening of the peer review process we noted a bipolar tendency regarding original papers and review type articles: to increase the number of original paper and, respectively, to decrease the number of reviews.

In this way the review type articles decreased from over ten articles per year

(the first 4 issues) to 5 and respectively, 7 in the last two years, and the original articles increased from about 12/year in the first 4 years to over 20 in the last three years.
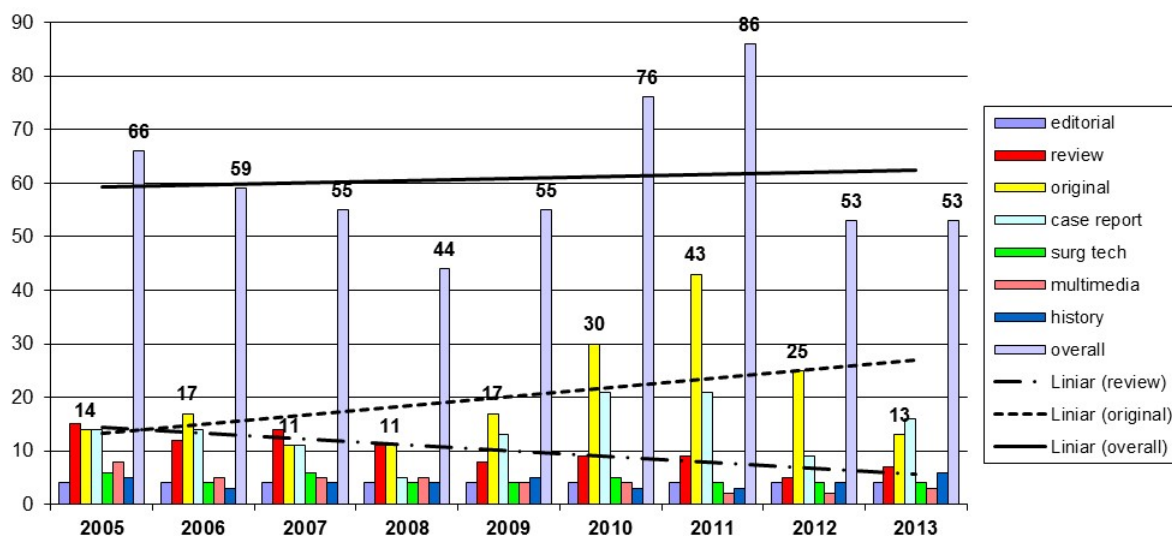

Figure 1: Distribution of published articles from 2005 until nowadays. To note the tendencies lines from original and review type articles.
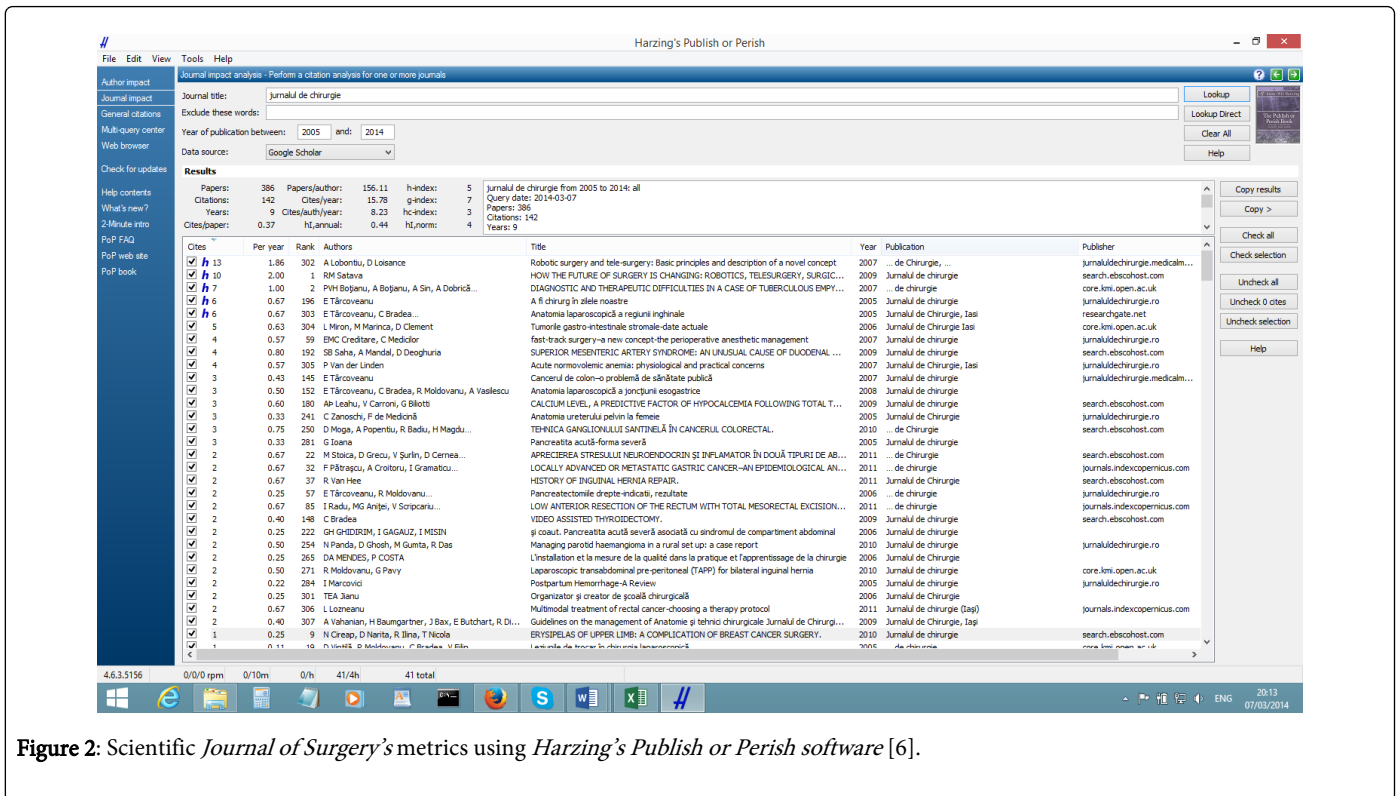
Figure 2: Scientific *Journal of Surgery's* metrics using *Harzing's Publish or Perish software* [6].

The citation of Journal of Surgery's articles is also on an increasing tendency. A brief electronic data research using *Harzing's Publish or Perish* [6] software, revealed 142 citations (from 386 articles studied). The first three cited articles are:

Lobontiu A, Loisance D. ROBOTIC SURGERY AND TELE-SURGERY: BASIC PRINCIPLES AND DESCRIPTION OF A NOVEL CONCEPT. *Jurnalul de chirurgie* (Iasi) 2007; 3(3): 208-214, with 13 citations (1.86 citations/year);

Satava RM. HOW THE FUTURE OF SURGERY IS CHANGING: ROBOTICS, TELESURGERY, SURGICAL SIMULATORS AND OTHER ADVANCED TECHNOLOGIES. *Jurnalul de chirurgie* (Iasi) 2009; 5(4): 311-325, with 10 citations (2 citations/year);

Botianu PHV, Botianu A, Sin A et al. DIAGNOSTIC AND THERAPEUTIC DIFFICULTIES IN A CASE OF TUBERCULOUS EMPYEMA WITH ATYPICAL MYCOBACTERIA. *Jurnalul de chirurgie* (Iasi) 2007; 3(1): 45-51, with 7 citations (1 citation/year).

It is important to note that several articles are cited by international prestigious journals like:

World Journal of Surgery (Satava RM. HOW THE FUTURE OF SURGERY IS CHANGING: ROBOTICS, TELESURGERY, SURGICAL SIMULATORS AND OTHER ADVANCED TECHNOLOGIES. *Jurnalul de chirurgie* (Iasi) 2009; 5(4): 311-325),

Surgical endoscopy (Lobontiu A, Loisance D. ROBOTIC SURGERY AND TELE-SURGERY: BASIC PRINCIPLES AND DESCRIPTION OF A NOVEL CONCEPT. *Jurnalul de chirurgie* (Iasi) 2007; 3(3): 208-214 and Vintilă D, Moldovanu R, Vlad N et al. TROCARS INJURIES IN LAPAROSCOPIC SURGERY. *Jurnalul de chirurgie* (Iasi) 2005; (1)1: 53-56),

American Journal of Medicine (Cotea E, Vasilescu A, Dimofte G et al. GASTRIC DIVERTICULA ON THE GREATER CURVATURE. *Jurnalul de chirurgie* (Iași) 2007; 3(3): 269-273) etc.

The other overall scientific data measurements are: 0.37 cites/paper, 15.78 cites/year an h-index of 5 and a g-index of 9 (Figure 2).

In this era of globalization, of open access, of "impact factor", of performance and "performance" classifications, the surgical journals are "under pressure". The only way to evolve, to improve the scientific content and to be "more international" is to open all the barriers and misconceptions.

In this way, Journal of Surgery has joined to OMICS group. This new collaboration allows us to further develop the Journal (with a primary objective to be included in PubMed and then in ISI) and to widely open the Romanian surgery to the world. Furthermore we want to offer to the young doctors a powerful surgical education platform and a real chance to share their work to their colleagues from all-around the world. However, our goal to represent Romanian surgery is not forgotten; so, *Journal of Surgery* will preserve a Romanian language section for the articles submitted in Romanian.

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