

Transition of Japan Journal of Nursing Science through 11 years

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In 2003, the Board of Directors of the Japan Academy of Nursing Science (JANS) decided to publish an English journal, Japan Journal of Nursing Science (JJNS) and I participated in selecting the publisher, preparing documents as instructions for authors and encouraging submission of manuscripts. It is very gratifying to reach our 10th issue milestone. It was a big challenge to start the English journal, though it was quite exciting as well. At the beginning, I spent many hours caring for JJNS just like a newborn baby, but eleven years have passed very quickly. I would like to take advantage of this occasion to describe our work focused on making JJNS a quality journal.

1. Transition of JJNS

Initially, JJNS authors had to be a member of JANS. This rule was removed in 2005, and submissions from abroad have increased gradually since then, with submissions from 5 countries in 2007, from 10 countries in 2009, and from 23 countries in 2012. And with Online Submission introduced in 2008, the number of submitted papers has been increasing. Manuscripts are mainly from Asian countries, including approximately 40 percent from Japan.

Table 1 shows a 10-year time line of events impacting the Journal. A 13-member International Advisory Board was appointed in 2006, and they work hard to support JJNS.

From the first issue in 2004, CINAHL (Cumulative Index to Nursing & Allied Health) indexed JJNS, and MEDLINE accepted JJNS for indexing in 2009. This increased the respect for the journal and more articles were submitted. The impact factor of 2012 was reported as 0.583 in summer 2013. While this is low, we have only been eligible for this for three years and we are working to improve this citation index. The three articles that have been cited most frequently are:

1. Nursing profession in Iran: An overview of opportunities and challenges.
2. Factors affecting the turnover of novice nurses at university hospitals: A two year longitudinal study.
3. Competencies of genetic nursing practice in Japan: A comparison between basic and advanced levels.

Upon publication of the 10th edition, the journal has published 134 papers and 85% are original articles. The basic types of research include 94 quantitative articles, 36 qualitative articles, and 4 mixed methods.

2. Efforts of the JJNS Editorial Board

The Editorial Board has worked hard to reduce the time required for editorial review. Table 2 shows how JJNS uses subject editors who have expertise in the area of the manuscript to improve the quality and timing of reviews.

We decided to introduce an early screening system in 2011 to respond to authors as soon as possible. After receiving a manuscript, four subject editors read the submitted manuscript and judge the manuscript to review /reject it within a week. We try to send rejection result to the author within approximately two weeks of the receipt of manuscript. Otherwise, manuscripts go into a regular review process.

Decisions to reject a manuscript have been reduced from an original average of 192 days to 79 days now. Submission-to-acceptance of manuscripts has been reduced from an average of 367 days at the beginning to 193 days now. Current issues for improvement include ethical issues and response span.

We have also provided information on updated research methods as well as how to write a paper in English and how to review to subject editors, reviewers, and future authors by holding seminars/workshops. In addition to some short sessions held during the annual JANS Academic Conference, we have offered the following one day workshops from 2006:

- (2006) How to establish a career through English communications in nursing science.
- (2008) Publishing your research.
- (2009) The peer review process: Providing constructive feedback for authors.
- (2010) Serving as a peer reviewer.
- (2011) Publishing your research in English.
- (2012) Improving your success at publishing in English 2012 (Literature search, writing an abstract etc.).
- (2013) Improving your success at publishing in English 2013 (IT tools, feedback review and tables/figures etc.).

In 2014, we will start publishing the journal four issues per year (instead of the current two issues), as an on-line journal only, with the consequent associated pressures. Early E pubs will continue to be used. We will continue to strive to be a quality journal using the latest technology to make improvements.

Table 1. Timeline highlighting milestone events from launch of JJNS

Event	JANS Board decide to publish JJNS in English	1st Issue Published Dr. Holzemer Appointed as Editor-in-Chief CINAHL accepted JJNS		Appointed International Advisory Board Online Early Publication		Online Submission initiated Early View (Online Early) Publication	MEDLINE accepted JJNS	Received 1st Impact Factor score: 0.333			Last Issue of Paper Version Impact Factor Score: 0.583	JJNS totally online
Year	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Number manuscripts submitted	22	11		16			82			191		
Acceptance rate		90%		56%			23%			20%		
Volume published		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11

Table 2. Roles of Subject Editor

- Take a leadership role with regard to the Journal in own state.
 - Be responsible for refereeing and organizing reviewers when requested.
 - Make a recommendation whether the contribution should be accepted for publication.
 - Be pro-active in seeking out articles and publications.
 - Write at least one editorial during the term (3 years).
 - Monitor the quality of manuscripts within a subject area that is published in the Journal and take action where necessary to raise that standard.
 - Each to take responsibility for some segment of Journal development.
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