

Dear Editorial Board Members:

As a way to provide you our 1st Quarter update, let me draw your attention to the following statistical table:

1st Quarter 2015 and 2016 - New Submissions				
	2015		2016	
	counts	%	counts	%
Total Received	*		192	
			43**	
Total Checked In (reached Editor Desk)	198		149	
Special Reject (without review)	116	59%	63	42%
Special Accept (without review)	3		1	
Total Sent for Peer Review	79	40%	85	57%
In review			66	
Sent for revision (Major or Minor)			10	
Reject after review			8	

\*data not available; assumed close to Total Checked In  
 \*\* returned to author(s) due to non-adherence to JASIST guidelines

Review Editor (RE) load distribution		
Total to review	85	
Assigned to Julia as RE	25	29%
Special submission categories	14	16%
Assigned to Brief Communications		
Associate Editor (AE)	8	
Assigned to AIS AE	2	
Assigned to Book Review AE	4	
Assigned to the rest of the Editorial Board (EB) members as RE	46	54%

There are several key points I wish to highlight based on the data in the table above. First, we attempted to compare the first quarter of this year with the first quarter of 2015. In terms of total submissions received in 2016 (192) the number was approximately the same as in 2015 (198 checked in). The actual checked in numbers is a bit lower in 2016, primarily due to the managing editor conducting deeper screening of manuscripts to ensure compliance with JASIST submission guidelines.

Second, in terms of the first stage review at the Editor-in-Chief level, the desk-reject rate was lower in 2016 (42%) as compared to 2015 (59%). The lower number of desk-rejects may be due to the fact that manuscripts that receive their due attention during this stage are of higher quality. About the same number of manuscripts was sent out for peer review. However, the proportion was a bit higher in 2016 (57%) as compared to 2015 (40%) in the first quarter, again due to more rigorous screening of the manuscripts before check in.

Between January 1<sup>st</sup> and April 5<sup>th</sup>, 42 articles were accepted in 2015, and during that same period 25 articles were accepted in 2016 (Note: the period here is a bit truncated as compared to the period used for other numbers presented in the table above and the numbers here include some manuscripts that were already under review before the first quarter of the year.)

Overall, the load distribution in the modified EB board structure appears to be working well. However, there is still room for improvement. As the table above shows, the managing editor, Julia Khanova, is carrying a higher load in playing the role of a review editor than I would prefer (along with my support to execute the associated review responsibilities). Approximately 1/3 of the manuscripts are being handled by the managing editor in the review editor role and about 1/2 are being handled by EB members in their role as review editors. To improve the manuscript review management there are two potential options: (1) gradually increase the load that individual EB members handle over a quarter (currently the average is about 1.05) and (2) expand the editorial board to include additional members. I plan to pursue both strategies. The load for review editing may increase to 2-3 new manuscripts per quarter per EB member (not higher than that). The EB is likely to increase by at least 3 or 4 more members in the near future.

#### Other News

As you may have noticed, there are several new board members that joined JASIST in the first quarter. If you have not had a chance to review the recent board membership, please take a look here: [http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/journal/10.1002/\(ISSN\)1532-2890/homepage/EditorialBoard.html](http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/journal/10.1002/(ISSN)1532-2890/homepage/EditorialBoard.html).

Significant transition in the near future includes, Jonathan Furner, Associate Editor of JASIST and editor-in-charge of the AIS section of JASIST, stepping down. I am in active discussion with some colleagues in an attempt to recruit a new associate editor to take charge of this section. I also plan to revamp the AIS section to provide additional value to our readership.

Finally, in collaboration with Dr. Jamshid Behesti (ASIST Board Representative in JASIST), we are planning a special panel discussion called "Meet the Editors" for the upcoming ASIST Annual Meeting, to be held in Copenhagen, Denmark this year. In addition to representations from the JASIST editorial board, we will have editors from other well-known information science journals joining the panel. Our goals for the forum include shining a light on JASIST, sharing information on its current status, linking JASIST more closely to its parent organization, and encouraging the next-generation information scientists to submit manuscripts to JASIST. As more details about the event become available (it is pending approval), we plan to share them with you.

Respectfully submitted,

Javed Mostafa

May 1<sup>st</sup>, 2016