

LETTER FROM THE EDITOR FOR THE 9TH VOLUME

Four issues of volume 8 of *Gerontechnology* have appeared in 2009: 3 regular issues, and 1 special on 'Fun technology'.

Visits & cites

In 2009, the digital version of the journal has been accessed from all inhabited continents, in total 55 different countries, with in the mean 2 visits each hour of day and night. Readership is mainly located in Europe (49%, 32 countries), North-America (32%, 6 countries) and Asia (12%, 21 countries). Here the Top-10 visiting countries are located as well. Through the doi's (Digital Object Identifiers of CrossRef¹) now attached to each contribution of the journal, 4% of the visits were realized. We expect this percentage to increase. One of the measures for a journal's impact is Hirsch's h-index: the number of articles n that have been cited at least n times². When Google Scholar is used as a basis an h-index can be calculated with Publish or Perish software³. It amounted to $h=9$. This is 1 more than by the end of 2008, but still about half the value for most gerontology journals. Therefore room for improvement remains.

The top-9 cited articles cover all columns of the cross-fertilization matrix⁴, the scientific foundation of *Gerontechnology*, except for business management. This is also a general trend in manuscript submissions that should be reversed.

Manuscript handling

During 2009 the college of associate editors did good work again, and I am grateful to all of them. New associate-editors included Vappu Taipale (Policy development) and Lauren E. Storck (Psychology and e-communication). Most of the domain of gerontechnology has now been covered by the expertise of the associate editors, except for business management, where we still have to attract editors as well as authors.

Gerontechnology received 50 manuscripts (excluding abstracts) of which 48% was accepted (52% in 2008). I am grateful to the peer reviewers who supported the editors. Among the peer reviewers were editors as well as other experts: Jennifer Boger, Suzanne Cahill, Ian D. Cameron, Chiara Cutaia, Sara Czaja, Kees (C.H.) Doevendans, Marc Fabri, Francesco Franchimon, Gert-Jan Gelderblom, Marilyn R. Gugliucci, Inger Hagen, Jessica Lynn Johnson, Jeroen Knies, Anne Collins McLaughlin, M.H. Martens, E. Jeffrey Metter, Silvestro Micera, C.H.J. Midden, Alex Mihailidis, John Moore, N. Neustadt-Noy, D. van Norren, Misha Pavel, R. Pieper, Dar-

ren Reed, Jennifer Salmon, Andrew Sixsmith, Marjorie Skubic, Päivi Topo, Binh Q. Tran, Roberta Vaccaro, and John T. Williams.

Shortage of manpower prevented some of the improvements that had been planned for 2009. This includes the establishment of an upload/download page for manuscripts with mandatory templates for regular types of tables, figures, references, etc. We hope to get this done in 2010.

Open access

Gerontechnology exercises delayed open access, with only the last volumes being restricted to access by members of the ISG or subscription holders. Currently 4766 peer-reviewed on-line journals are registered as Open Access without delay⁵. For these journals users have the right to read, download, copy, distribute, print, search, or link to the full texts of the articles in the journal. Such an approach supports the diffusion of new knowledge, but also calls for a different business model with costs not charged to readers, but to authors. Only the costs of printing remain with the readers.

As an experiment, authors in *Gerontechnology* may now choose, after acceptance of their manuscript, to have immediate open access for their article. The fee for this service is €950 per manuscript, to be charged after successful peer review, and paid before uploading of the contribution. By the end of 2011 we will evaluate this approach, as a next step towards an adapted business model for the journal.

I wish you interesting reading in this new *Gerontechnology* volume!

References

1. www.crossref.org; retrieved February 1, 2010
2. Hirsch JE. An index to quantify an individual's scientific research output. *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences of the United States of America* 2005;102(46):16569-16572; doi:10.1073/pnas.0507655102
3. Harzing AW. Publish or Perish, version 2.8.3644; 2010; www.harzing.com/pop.htm; retrieved February 18, 2010
4. Bouma H, Fozard JL, Bouwhuis DG, Taipale VT. *Gerontechnology* in perspective. *Gerontechnology* 2007;6(4):190-216; doi:10.4017/gt.2007.06.04.003.00
5. DOAJ (Directory of Open Access Journals); <http://www.doaj.org/>; retrieved February 23, 2010

Johanna E.M.H. van Bronswijk, editor-in-chief

E: j.e.m.h.v.bronswijk@tue.nl

doi:10.4017/gt.2010.09.01.008.00