

REPORT OF THE EDITOR OF THE JOURNAL

The readership of Gerontechnology journal includes ISG members (whose numbers increased from 197 in May 2008 to 255 in March 2010), and libraries (which increased in number from 30 to 41). Visits to the electronic version more than doubled in one year (from 8,380 in 2008 to 17,123 in 2009, excluding Dutch visits). This trend continued in the first months of 2010, with a mean of 2.5 visits / hour as of March 8, 2010. Readership is mainly located in North-America, Europe and Asia. Here the Top-10 visiting countries are found (Table 1).

Table 1. Top-10 countries of visitors of the electronic version of Gerontechnology in 2008-2009

Country	Visits		
	2008	2009	Sum
USA	1746	4437	6183
UK	544	1570	2114
France	717	1269	1986
Finland	496	1041	1537
Germany	583	843	1426
Spain	421	908	1329
Taiwan	606	586	1192
Italy	676	504	1180
Japan	456	674	1130
Canada	198	868	1066

This growth is mirrored by the rising popularity of gerontechnology in academic circles. Google Scholar, for instance, returned 1,790 hits for 'gerontechnology' (March 30, 2010). In 2008 this was less than 100. We also saw an increase in reference databases that include Gerontechnology. CINAHL, the Cumulative Index to Nursing and Allied Health Literature, and ICONDA of the Fraunhofer Informationszentrum Raum und Bau, were added in 2008-2009. The acceptance by PubmedCentral is not yet fully implemented due to technical problems with the XML-files.

THE EDITORS

The editors accepted around 50% of the papers submitted. This does not include conference abstracts that had a rejection rate of about 15%. These percentages remained remarkably constant over the years.

During 2008-2009 the editorial board was resolved and its members became associate editors, whose expertise was connected to their specific field within the domain of gerontechnology by stating it in the colophon of the journal. Most of the domain of gerontechnology appears to be covered, except for business management, where we still have to attract editors as well as authors.

An open source solution has been sought to manage and publish Gerontechnology online. Commercial systems were far beyond the financial reach of the ISG. However, OJS, a Public Knowledge Project¹, appears promising. During 2010 it will be tested in more detail, not only technically, but also in relation to the organisation of editorial office and editors' tasks.

CITES AND IMPACT

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, the h-index can be calculated with Publish or Perish (PoP) software³. It amounted to 8 in 2008 and 9 by the end of 2009. This is still only half the value for the older gerontology journals, but increasing.

Table 2. Articles in Gerontechnology (h=9) with 9 or more cites in the cross-fertilization matrix⁵; results are based on Google Scholar and analyzed with PoP³

		Technology					
		(Bio)physics (Bio)chemistry	Architecture Building	Information Communication	Mechatronics Robotics	Ergonomics Design	Business management
Gerontechnology	Physiology Nutrition	Havenith 2001;1(1):41 15 cites				Fozard 2001;1(1):5 9 cites	
	Psychology Social psychology		Sixsmith et al. 2007; 6(1):2 9 cites	Sloan 2006; 5(2):106 9 cites	Owsley 2002; 1(4): 220 10 cites	Tacken et al. 2005; 3(3):126 13 cites	
	Sociology Demographics		Berlo A van. 2002; 2(1):77 11 cites	Docampo Rama et al. 2001;1(1): 25 34 cites		Goodman et al. 2006;4(4): 249 9 cites	
	Medicine Rehabilitation			Mihailidis & Fernie 2002; 2(2):173 22 cites			

Articles of Gerontechnology with 9 or more cites originate from 2001 (3), 2002 (3), 2005 (1), 2006 (2) and 2007 (1). A lag time of about 5 years between publication and significant citation is normal for publications in the domains of engineering and social sciences⁴. The top list appears distributed nicely over the cross-fertilization matrix, the scientific foundation of gerontechnology⁵, except for Business Management (*Table 2*). This is a general gap in manuscript submissions to Gerontechnology that should be filled in the future.

(DELAYED) OPEN ACCESS

Gerontechnology exercises delayed open access, with only the last volumes being restricted to access by members of the ISG or subscription holders. In total 4766 peer-reviewed on-line journals are registered as Open Access without delay⁶. 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. Currently, accepted manuscripts are made available on the Internet as soon as they are typeset and corrected by the author. Starting with volume 9 authors may also choose to pay for immediate open access. This is a prelude to a new business model in which access to all issues of the journal will be free, and costs are covered by author fees, and earnings from biennial conferences. A new management system suitable for this approach is under evaluation.

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