



What makes the *Annals* fit for purpose? – Revisited

When I took over as editor-in-chief of the *Annals* from John Lumley, I posed the question ‘What makes the *Annals* fit for purpose?’. My concern was to ensure that the *Annals* provided a wide spectrum of surgical endeavour, concentrating on clinical and technical activities. Objective assessment of success can be difficult but I have considered the traditional markers:

- **The impact factor** (Fig. 1). This has increased significantly and indeed nearly doubled since 2002.
- **Online usage** (Fig. 2). This has shown a huge increase in activity and now reaches 16,000 ‘hits’ per month.
- **Manuscript submission**. This has increased by 10% year-on-year and we received over 750 papers in 2005.
- **Correspondence**. I encourage readers to comment on the format and content of the *Annals*. Correspondence received so far has been favourable. Any form of feedback is greatly appreciated.

I am extremely grateful to David Atkins (*Annals* manager) and Hannah Chinery (publishing assistant) for their unstinting assistance and hard work. Gill and Bruce Haddock (production

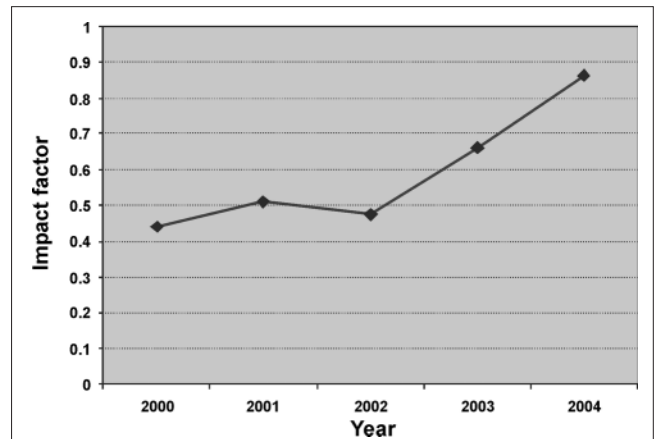


Figure 1 *Annals* impact factor

editors) provide an outstanding service with consistent high standards.

My thanks to the entire editorial board, with particular mention to Colin Johnson (review editor), who recently joined the editorial team and has acquired an outstanding collection of review articles.

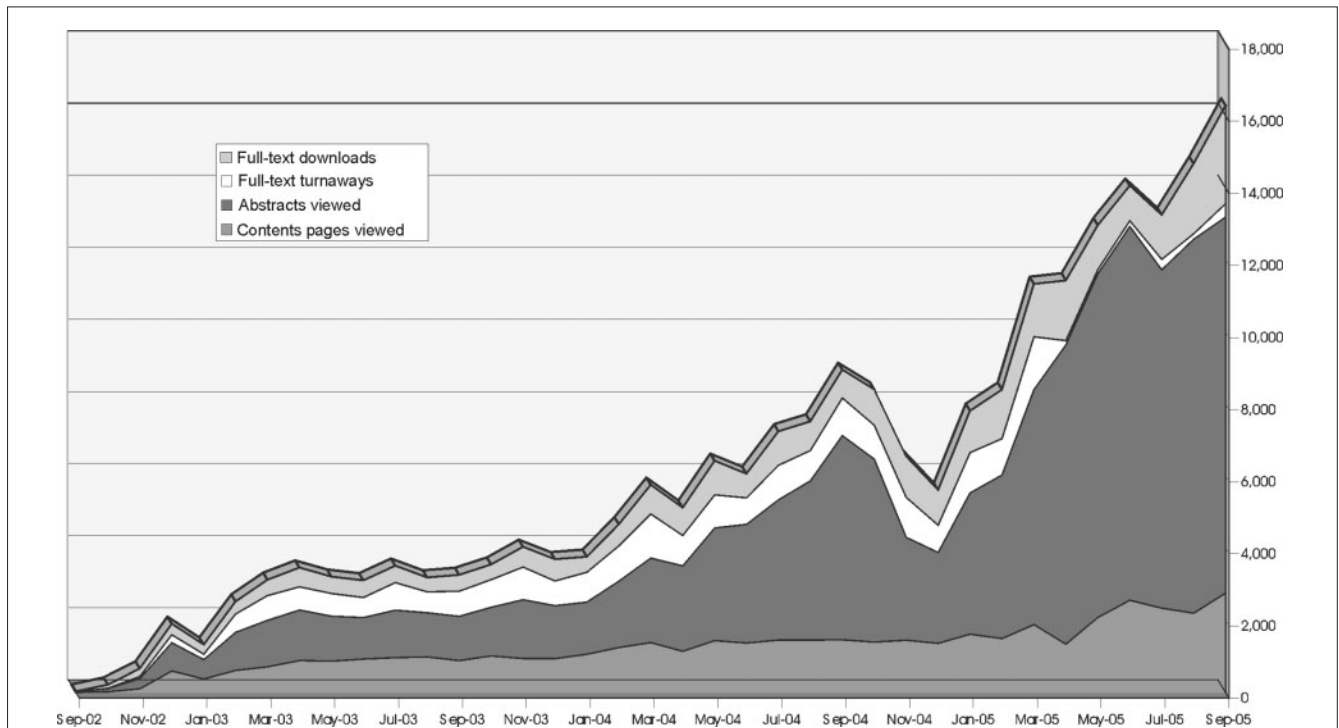


Figure 2 Overview of online usage

Now is probably an appropriate time to remind readers about how and why you should use the DOI (digital object identifier) appearing at the head of each article in the *Annals*. The DOI is a permanent, unique identifier that underlies the seamless linking from reference lists to abstracts on the web between journals hosted by different publishers. It is this permanence that is the key; it no longer matters if a journal changes publisher and/or the web address changes, the DOI remains the same and offers the

easiest option for identifying and locating a specific article on the internet.

Whenever citing your *Annals*, or for that matter *Bulletin*, articles, whether the print or online versions, you should always include the DOI as this will allow the reader to access, at the very least, the abstract of your paper.

Finally, my sincere thanks once again to our dedicated team of reviewers, without whose help the journal would flounder.

**On behalf of the editorial team, I wish our readers a
happy, healthy and successful New Year!**

Irving Taylor
Editor-in-Chief