

ECP editor's report on 2006

The number of submissions to ECP has increased in the year 2006 in comparison with previous years. A total of 93 papers were submitted (including transfers from EJP). Of those, 34 were accepted, 53 rejected and 6 are still in review process. This number will probably be higher in 2007, and by the mid june 2007, 55 papers have already been submitted to ECP.

In the 2006 volume, 34 papers have appeared. The time needed between submission and acceptance of these papers in final form is distributed as follows:

0-1 months:	2
2-4 months:	5
4-6 months:	7
6-8 months:	8
8-10 months:	4
10-12 months:	4
> 12 months:	4

Taking into account that ECP publishes short papers, the review time should be less than for other journals. However, as the above figures point out, we are still far from the ideal mean time of 3-4 months between submission and final acceptance. On the other hand, after the final acceptance, the publication takes only few days.

The policy of the electronic journals has been to reinforce the immediate rejection in case of papers that do not meet the high standards of quality. This procedure has been proved to be useful.

EJP: Editor's report on 2006

The number of submissions to EJP increased drastically in the year 2006 compared to its history so far, namely up to 156 submissions.

The development so far seems to indicate that this very high number is stable, by the end of May, 2007 we have 60 submissions.

Unfortunately, the number of very good papers has not increased at this rate. As a consequence it was necessary to use the tool of immediate rejection based on the editor's judgement and very quick rejections after consulting with an associate editor but without a regular refereeing process. (This caused very emotional reactions by some authors but eventually everybody accepted the procedure as reasonable.) As a consequence the workload of the editor and the associate editors increased substantially and has forced two associate editors to quit and several others to limit the papers they handle during peak times of other responsibilities. Another observation is that many authors of short papers try to get their papers into EJP. During the year 2006, 26 manuscripts had to be shifted to ECP by the intervention of the EJP-editor.

These developments clearly show that there is a need for a further journal accepting papers which are correct, decently written but which do not satisfy the high standards for longer papers on the novelty of the methods used and can be accepted by the two Annals, PTRF or EJP.

Confidential: The journal had serious problems with one associate editor who was handling 6 papers from 2004 to 2005 who could only be handled recently. For this field another person has been appointed in the meantime. **End confidential**

For the year 2006 (i.e. submissions in that year) we had:

submissions:	156
accepted:	50
in revision:	7
pending:	15
transferred to ECP:	26
rejected:	56
withdrawn:	2

We increase the efforts to keep up higher standards (at a level with the Annals and PTRF), so that the acceptance rate will decrease somewhat in the time to come.

The time needed to produce a first report, respectively to decide on early rejection or transfer to ECP has the following distribution:

1 month:	48
2 months:	11
3 months:	9
4 months:	14
5 months:	20
6 months:	19
7 months:	8
8 months:	6
9 months:	8
10 months:	
11 months:	2
12 months:	1

Ideally the time for the first report should be below 6 months. It is a fact, however, that associate editors have to put in serious effort to convince people to take on a paper as a referee and handle it in reasonable time with a fair report. This requires, in particular, the writing of mails which cannot be automatically generated (and often even phone calls) and which is therefore quite time-consuming. For that reason I am not too optimistic that the statistics can be improved very much in a sustainable way if we keep insisting on a tight quality control.

ELECTRONIC JOURNAL OF STATISTICS
ANNUAL REPORT
May 2007

Electronic Journal of Statistics (EJS) is a new journal sponsored by the IMS and the Bernoulli Society. We have been in operation for 2 months, having had our first submission on March 23 2007. The current status of papers is as follows:

Active	14
Appeared	6
Declined	6

Thus we have averaged about 1 submission every other day. Our main challenge at the moment is sorting out some difficulties with the web system for handling papers. Some problems have already been fixed and we hope that the remaining problems will be fixed shortly.

Larry Wasserman
Editor, *Electronic Journal of Statistics*

Report from the JCGS Management Committee for IMS 2007

The JCGS Management Committee met at the JSM, August 2006. Here is a summary of the meeting.

- David Van Dyk began taking new manuscripts July 1, 2006. Luke Tierney will continue to handle existing manuscripts.
- JCGS was brought onto Allentrack July 1, 2006.
- Janet Wallace was hired as the Editorial Coordinator in April 2006, and helped David get Allentrack up and running.
- Susam Holmes became the new IMS representative on the committee.
- The budget is not balanced, due to the costs of hiring the new editorial coordinator, and this needs to be resolved by the joint owners, ASA, IMS and Interface.
- Double-blinding and increasing color were discussed. Color can be unlimited in electronic versions, but needs to be restricted in printed copy to control costs. Double-blinding is problematic. Luke doesn't force authors to blind software.
- Development of JCGS was discussed: special issues, new sections such as short letters, video submission.

Attachments: Editor's report 2006

Editor's Report to the JCGS Management Committee
Journal of Computational and Graphical Statistics

Luke Tierney, Editor

August 4, 2006

After a bit of a dip in 2004 submissions in 2005 increased dramatically. Submissions for 2004 and 2005 were 120 and 176, respectively. As to June 30, when handling of new submissions was turned over to David van Dyk, we had received 83 submissions in 2006. The quality of accepted manuscripts continues to be quite high. We continue to publish about 45-50 papers per year. This reflects a success rate for unsolicited papers in the range of one quarter to one-third. The backlog of articles is currently about six months. Our median time to first review is 130 days.

The number of submissions where color would be useful continues to increase. While we can sometimes persuade authors to eliminate color this does often reduce the quality of the presentation. We have been able to limit color to 3-4 regular articles per year; it is likely that there will be about that many in 2007. It would be good to continue to pursue options for increasing the amount of color we can include in the journal.

The number of submissions on purely graphical topics remains rather low, though it has improved a little in the last year. This is an area where further developments and ideas are still needed.

There has been some change in the editorial board with four resignations and five additions by me; David van Dyk has added two more.

My editorial expenses for this year will consist of \$3,000 for computer support, mainly for reliably backed up disk space and web server support, the cost of attending the January Committee on Publications meeting, and the cost of the editorial board breakfast meeting at the JSM. I anticipate no further editorial expenses.

JSS is now an official electronic journal of the American Statistical Association. JCGS continues to publish titles and abstracts of papers published on line by JSS. It is probably reasonable to continue this, though it may make sense to no longer list the JSS editor on the JCGS masthead. At this point I believe there is no longer any formal relationship between JSS and JCGS, though it might be good to clarify this.

I am very pleased that David van Dyk has been selected and has agreed to become the next JCGS editor. I am also very glad to see that the level of support in terms of moving to AllenTrack and adding some editorial support is now more appropriate for the level of submissions JCGS now enjoys. Some care will be needed in balancing the amount of editorial support and its cost against the continued needs and associated costs of color publishing.

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Probability Surveys Annual Report 2007

Volume 3 (2006) contained 10 papers (466 pages), a slight decrease over Volume 2. As of May 25 2007, Volume 4 contains 2 papers (145 pages) and 5 more papers are under review. The quality of published papers is pleasantly high, though increasing the number of submissions would be desirable.

Acceptance percentages are not comparable to those of other IMS journals for various reasons. Of papers formally submitted in 2006, there were 8 papers rejected as “more like new research than a survey paper”. Such rejections are generally made very quickly, directly by Editor or after consultation with an Associate Editor. I also receive (and welcome) informal enquiries about suitability of draft papers, which obviates later need for rejection of formal submissions.

David Aldous

IMS Executive Editor's report

Statistics Surveys

Jon A. Wellner

June 9, 2007

Since being appointed as IMS Executive Editor of **Statistics Surveys** in early February, 2007, I have recruited a group of twenty IMS - sponsored Associate Editors. The following people have volunteered to serve on the initial Editorial Board on behalf of the IMS:

Peter Bickel	John Marden
T. Tony Cai	Per Mykland
Noel Cressie	Dominique
Dorota Dabrowska	Donald Richards
Anirban DasGupta	Qi-Man Shao
Jianqing Fan	Xiaotong Shen
Edward George	Simon Tavaré
Subhashis Ghosal	Grace Wahba
Vladimir Koltchinskii	Yuhong Yang
Michael Kosorok	Cun-Hui Zhang

I have also been working with the Coordinating Editor, Wendy Martinez, to establish procedures and revise the website. Wendy and I have been working with Elja Arjas who has been appointed as the initial Executive Editor for **Statistics Surveys** from the *Bernoulli Society*. Elja has now appointed ten Associate Editors sponsored by the *Bernoulli Society*. Although we have not yet published any papers, about 10 manuscripts have been submitted and have been reviewed or are under review at this time. The IMS sponsored Associate Editors have been encouraged to solicit appropriate review and survey articles and we welcome submissions, both solicited and unsolicited. Our hope is to publish have about 400 pages published by the end of the year.