

Annals of Applied Probability
Annual Report 2008
June 10, 2008

Summary journal data for 2007 provided from EJMS is the basic reference for this report. There were 271 submissions via the Electronic Journal Management System (EJMS) for 2007. The 11 year historic submission rates are now: 134, 183, 145, 170, 137, 149, 164, 196, 207, 220, 271 manuscripts.

The Acceptance/Rejection split for 2007 was 63/271 (23% accepted). This is a little lower than previous years, but there is no explicit effort to control the number of publishable papers in AAP, beyond quality control standards imposed by peer referees and the editorial board.

The plan for 2007 had been to move from previous Fat 4 Issue Model to a Lean 6 Issue Model. However, to maintain a reasonable backlog it was decided to run 5 issues for 2007 which involved combining Issues 5 and 6 into a single issue numbered 5/6. 2008 should be the full six separate issues.

From an editor's perspective I am quite content with the functionality of EJMS. The complaints from AEs and/or authors are infrequent and are always quickly resolved by the prompt and effective attention provided by Mattson Publishing Services.

The median review time is 5.65 months. As editor I have put more emphasis on quality of reviews than length of time. This position is no doubt arguable, and I have heard arguments against it from a few authors, but it is realistic in making allowances for the highly technical nature of some submissions together with the many-fold other demands on peer reviewers and Associate Editors. I would argue against too much regimentation in an all volunteer system.

The current Editorial Board consists of second term continuations by: Paul Dupuis, Maury Bramson, Claudia Kluppelberg, Russell Lyons, Leonid Mytnik, Timo Seppalainen, Denis Talay, and Ofer Zeitouni. New (first term) members are: Jinho Baik, Rabi Bhattacharya, Brigitte Chauvin, Rick Durrett, Luc Devroye, James Allen Fill, Jean-Pierre Fouque, David Gamarnik, Steve Krone, Charles Newman, Vladas Sidoravicius, Qi-

Man Shao, Jason Ross Schweinsberg, Prasad Tetali, Enrique Thomann, and Ruth Williams

The success of the journal is mostly in the hands of this very hard working and dedicated group of AEs and their anonymous referees who continue to do an outstanding job for the IMS and the larger profession. A special highlight for the journal this year was the recognition of authors H. Christian Gromoll, Amber L. Puha, and Ruth J. Williams as the 2007 Best Publications by INFORMS for three papers published in 2007, each of which appeared in AoAP.

A new issue arose this year that merits attention of IMS council. Namely, a non-English submission arrived. The language happened to be French, but apparently IMS has no general language policies for its journals. I informally consulted with Greg Lawler and polled a few AEs about this matter. The AE responses were mixed. Perhaps the voice of reason was best reflected in a recommendation that the language requirement should be consistent with that of lectures delivered at IMS meetings if there is a policy in this regard (?). In the end, the submission in French was withdrawn due to a technical error uncovered by the authors, so a policy decision was not required. At this point, however, it is my impression that such decisions are left to editors. Greg and I agreed to have an English only policy for AoP and AoAP during the remainder of our terms as editors.

Ed Waymire, June 10, 2008

ANNUAL REPORT, ANNALS OF APPLIED STATISTICS

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The Annals of Applied Statistics (AOAS) is well into its first full year of publication, with the first two issues of 2008 now printed and available electronically. This makes four issues in all that have appeared, enough to give readers a good sense of what the journal hopes to be. A look at the tables of contents (and the papers) on our web-page, <http://www.imstat.org/aoas/>, shows a wide variety of applied topics-- from the lost tomb of Jesus to nanoscale brain mapping to empirical Bayes estimates for batting averages. Upcoming papers can be viewed on the "Next Issues" page, and show the same catholic range over the world of applied statistics. The fourth issue of 2008 will feature a special section on atmospheric science, with a subsequent special section on "astrostatistics" planned for 2009.

New submissions have averaged about 22 papers per month, with an acceptance rate of roughly 30%. Rejections often relate to inappropriate style for an applied journal-- too theoretical-- and we have encouraged revisions that concentrate more on the intended application. The three AOAS editorial areas, biostatistics, social science, and physical science, have received about the same number of papers each. Median review time is currently 3.5 months until first response.

Bradley Efron, Stephen Fienberg, Michael Newton, Michael Stein

2008 REPORT, ANNALS OF PROBABILITY

The overall rate of submissions at the Annals is about the same as previous years so I will not bother to give a detailed summary. I do wish to bring up two issues.

I have been editor without an editorial assistant. This is an experiment, and I do not believe it has been successful. I have not had the ability (or at least the willingness) to spend as much time dealing with author correspondence and pestering of referees and is needed. I believe that future editors will need assistance.

A second issue that has arisen is that of language. I received a paper in French and found out that there is no official policy on language of papers although certainly a number of papers have been published in French. After a lot of thought, I decided that at this point I would not accept papers in French. I should give my rationale. There are a number of potential editors and referees who do not feel comfortable reading carefully papers written in French. While this is probably a minority of the readership of the Annals, it can include the very people whose comments one most wants on a paper. I do not believe that I set future precedent on this issue, but the Council may wish to discuss this matter.

Greg Lawler

The Annals of Statistics, 2008 Annual Report
Susan Murphy and Bernard Silverman, Editors

SUBMISSIONS: Submissions were up in 2007 and very high relative to the historical norm: 569 manuscripts (of which 90 were resubmissions from the prior editors' tenure) were received (in comparison to 274, 319, 362, 323, 343 and 397 in 2001 – 2006, respectively). Our editorial policy continues to emphasize that The Annals of Statistics aims at publishing research papers of highest quality reflecting the many facets of contemporary statistics, including all mathematical, methodological, computational and interdisciplinary work.

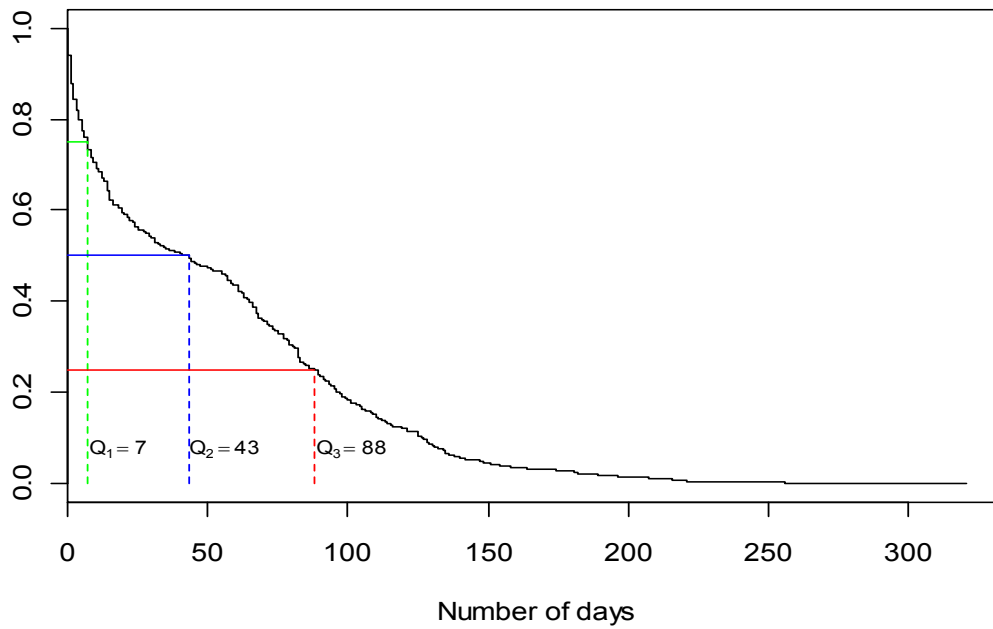
ACCEPTANCE RATE: During 2007, we made 125 acceptance, 412 rejection, and 29 tentative decisions on all live manuscripts. The acceptance rate among these 537 final decisions in 2007 is about 23% percent. This is compared with 22% for the manuscripts submitted during 2006. The historical acceptance rate for the Annals has been about 25-30 percent.

BACKLOG: During 2006, we printed 2817 pages. In 2008 we expect to use an allotment of 3000 pages. There is a current backlog of about 3.75 issues. We are continuing to experience an excessive backlog. Manuscripts accepted now may not appear until October 2009.

PAGE REQUEST: We request an allotment of 3300 pages for 2008. This is a conservative request particularly given the increase in submitted papers.

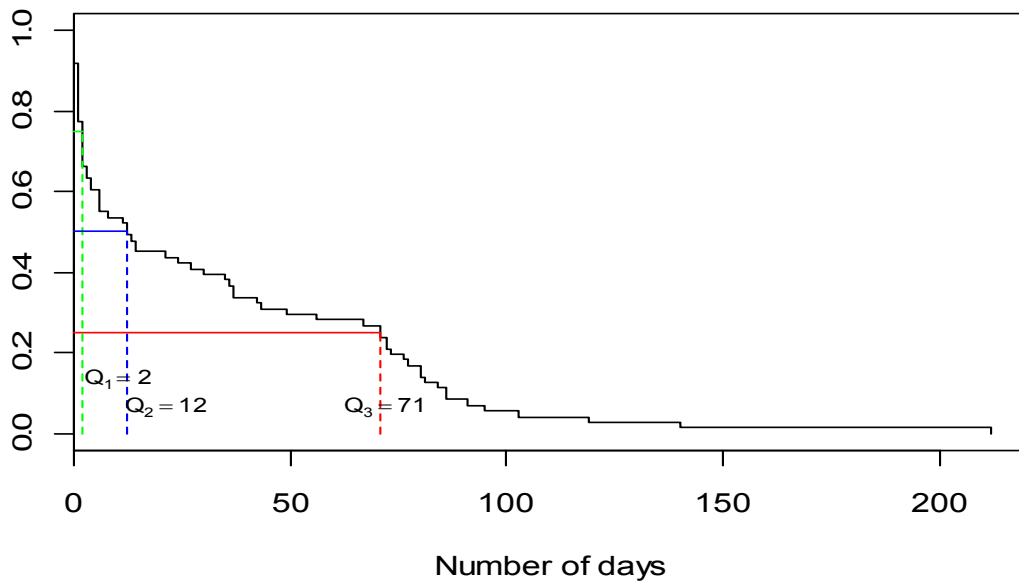
REVIEW TIMES: The quartiles of the distribution of the initial decision times for manuscripts submitted in 2007 are 7 days, 43 days and 88 days. They are decisively shorter than the quartiles of 25 days, 130 days and 240 days from 2006. The EJMS system has clearly had a great impact. The details of the review times are summarized in the graph below, which provides an estimated survival curve of initial decision times for submissions in 2007.

Survival function of the initial decision times



We have begun tracking the distribution of the time from submission of the first revision to second decision as well. The quartiles of the distribution of the second decision times for 71 manuscripts with revision submitted in 2007 are 2 days, 12 days and 71 days. See below.

Survival function of the second decision times



IMS Bulletin: Report to Council 2008

The *IMS Bulletin* continued this year with regular columns from Terry Speed and Rick Durrett. News about IMS activities and IMS members remained the major focus. In addition, we published three special issues: on membership (January/February 2008), on refereeing (March 2008), and on IMS China (June 2008, timed to coincide with the IMS China meeting in Hangzhou). We increased international coverage, and resumed the 'Letters to the Editor' section.

Following the meeting with the Contributing Editors (Peter Bickel, Louis Chen, Nicole Lazar and Terry Speed; Rick Durrett was unable to attend) at the 2007 JSM, the *Bulletin* adopted a new procedure on proof-reading to minimize errors.

The IMS IT Project Manager improved the *Bulletin* website earlier this year and created more convenient archives of past issues. This website, now a sub-domain of the IMS website, is located at <http://bulletin.imstat.org>. Printed copies (circulation just under 5,000) continue to be mailed around the first of each month, with the PDF version uploaded around the 15th of the month (i.e. two weeks earlier than the shipping date). The PDF version of the *Bulletin* (available from the website above) is still popular, receiving around 5,000 downloads per month.

As reported elsewhere, IMS has entered into an agreement with JobTarget for its job advertisement services to the prob/stat community. Until May this year, jobs were advertised in full in the *Bulletin*, and also online at <http://www.imstat.org/jobs>. Now jobs are advertised in full at <http://jobs.imstat.org> and only the summary data will be published in the *Bulletin*: location, job title, and a link to the full details. This will enable us to reallocate some hours spent laying out the ads in issues, particularly at peak advertising time, September–December.

As ever, we rely very much on IMS members to volunteer their news. We invite all members, and particularly Council members, to be proactive in this area – and in offering to write longer articles. Please don't be shy! We receive occasional feedback (mostly positive) which is very welcome, but we like to engage with readers. If anyone has comments, suggestions or feedback, please email bulletin@imstat.org.

Xuming He & Tati Howell
June 2008

Editor's Report on Lecture Notes-Monographs Series and IMS Collections

During 2007, four new monographs were published in the Lecture Notes-Monographs Series. They are on Bayesian supervised classification (author Olivier Catoni), Asymptotics on particles, processes and inverse problems (editors Eric A. Cator et al.), Complex data sets and inverse problems (editors Regina Liu, William Strawderman and Cun-Hui Zhang), and Multivariate Statistics (author Morris L. Eaton).

A few new monographs have been approved for review for the year 2008. The topics are neuroinformatics, surface estimation, and decision theory for survey sampling, by Chunming Zhang, Byeong Park, and Yosef Rinott, respectively. There are some other possibilities which have not been approved yet.

For the new IMS Collections series, lead editors have been appointed for fifteen selected works volumes of distinguished probabilists and statisticians, emeriti or deceased. The editorial board of the IMS Collections has assisted in selecting the names of the scholars to be honored. The editorial work has been completed on three of the fifteen selected works. Administrative work is in progress. In addition, volumes of articles in honor of David Freedman, J. K. Ghosh, and Pranab K. Sen were published in the IMS Collections series in 2008; these were edited by Anthony Davison.

Proposals for original research monographs on any topic in probability theory, mathematical statistics, and interface with the sciences are strongly encouraged. The enquiries should be directed to the series main editor. We also welcome books of problems, preferably with sketches of solutions for the difficult problems, or interesting simulation based monographs on hard unsolved problems. Any other suggestions are also most welcome.

Anirban DasGupta

Editor, Lecture Notes-Monographs Series, and Editor, IMS Collections

Report of the Managing Editor

Probability and Statistics

Michael Phelan

As my first combined report as Managing Editor of Probability and Statistics, I would like to say a word of appreciation of Paul Shaman, the outgoing Managing Editor of Statistics, for his many years of dedicated service to the Institute of Mathematical Statistics. I wish him well on his retirement from the Department of Statistics, University of Pennsylvania, and hope to sustain his professional example and attention to quality in the publication of IMS journals. Many of us know that Patrick Kelly, our Production Editor, was trained by Paul, and the positive ripples of that silent service have been felt by us all.

The page counts for 2007 turned out as follows: 2417 printed pages for *Annals of Probability*, 1807 for *Annals of Applied Probability*, 2816 for *Annals of Statistics*, 775 for *Annals of Applied Statistics*, 652 for *Statistical Science*.

As of this report, production is caught up or ahead on all issues. The one exception is *Statistical Science*, which is now being given priority. Many thanks to Patrick Kelly for his efficiency in the production process, and for his responsiveness to the timely publication of accepted manuscripts. The tables, below, provide the numbers for each of the journals.

The Annals of Probability

Volume 35	2007 Printed Pages	Volume 36	2008 Printed Pages
No. 1	397	No. 1	396
No. 2	409	No. 2	409
No. 3	394	No. 3	402
No. 4	421	-	-
No. 5	398	-	-
No. 6	<u>398</u>	-	<u>-</u>
TOTAL	2417	TOTAL	1207

The Annals of Applied Probability

Volume 17	2007 Printed Pages	Volume 18	2008 Printed Pages
No. 1	419	No. 1	359
No. 2	359	No. 2	465
No. 3	336	No. 3	453
No. 4	329	No. 4	390
No. 5/6	<u>364</u>	-	-
TOTAL	1807	TOTAL	1667

The Annals of Statistics

Volume 35	2007 Printed Pages	Volume 36	2008 Printed Pages
No. 1	464	No. 1	487
No. 2	466	No. 2	542
No. 3	420	No. 3	478
No. 4	498	No. 4	515
No. 5	463	-	-
No. 6	<u>505</u>	-	-
TOTAL	2816	TOTAL	2022

The Annals of Applied Statistics

Volume 1	2007 Printed Pages	Volume 2	2008 Printed Pages
No. 1	433	No. 1	285
No. 2	<u>342</u>	-	-
TOTAL	775	TOTAL	285

Statistical Science

Volume 22	2007 Printed Pages	Volume 23	2008 Printed Pages
No. 1	153	No. 1	150
No. 2	148	-	-
No. 3	175	-	-
No. 4	<u>176</u>	-	<u>-</u>
TOTAL	652	TOTAL	150

Annual Report - *Statistical Science*
 David Madigan, Executive Editor
 June, 2008

As of May 31, 2008, 39 manuscripts were at various stages of review or revision for *Statistical Science*. From Jan 1, 2007 – May 31, 2008, an additional 108 manuscripts were submitted. Of the total 147 manuscripts considered during this period, 81 were rejected, 25 are still in various stages of review or revision, and 41 have been accepted.

Month	Received	Rejected	Under review or revision	Accepted
Pre Jun 07	48	29	7	12
June 07	2	0	0	2
Jul 07	10	5	1	4
Aug 07	7	6	0	1
Sept 07	11	8	1	2
Oct 07	9	3	4	2
Nov 07	9	4	2	3
Dec 07	14	10	2	2
Jan 08	10	4	1	5
Feb 08	5	2	2	1
Mar 08	7	4	1	2
Apr 08	11	6	2	3
May 08	4	0	2	2
Total	147	81	25	41

I took over from Ed George as Executive Editor of *Statistical Science* on January 1, 2008. Ed did an outstanding job and passed along a healthy backlog of accepted and in-review high quality papers. Ed has stayed on as an Editor and has been extraordinarily helpful during the transition. Two special issues/sections for 2008 are at an advanced stage of preparation: “A Half Century of Minimax Shrinkage Estimation” (Guest Editor - Bill Strawderman), and “Thirty Years of the EM Algorithm” (Guest Editors – Xiao Li Meng and David Van Dyke). I anticipate that the total manuscript pages for 2008 will be around 600. Roughly the same number of manuscript pages should be planned for 2009. For 2009 we hope a have special issue on climate change issues as a well as an issue on “Bayesian methods that frequentists should know” (Guest Editors Partha Lahiri and Eric Slud).

I am very grateful to both Mattson Publishing Services and VTEX, who continue to be very responsive to my needs. EJMS has evolved considerably and now provides an excellent platform for journal management. I would like to gratefully acknowledge the efforts of the outgoing Editorial Board: Roger Berger, Alicia Carriquiry, Dean Foster, Constantine Frangakis, Sallie Keller-McNulty, Rob McCulloch, Sally Morton, Peter Mueller, Richard Smith, Marty Wells and Mike West. The new Editorial Board has gotten off to a terrific start and I am very grateful to each and every one of the members: Yali Amit, Richard Davis, Constantine Frangakis, Ed George, Diane Lambert, Peter Mueller, Nancy Reid, Glenn Shafer, and Marty Wells. I receive invaluable editorial support from Elyse Gustafson, Patrick Kelly, Geri Mattson and Paul Shaman.

Finally I want to acknowledge again the extraordinary support Ed George has provided during the transition.