Report and acknowledgments for the year 2015

Jonathan Baron, Editor

Here is the annual report for Judgment and Decision Making. I welcome suggestions and questions, including those concerning issues not mentioned here.

News

Michael Lee and Enrique Fatas have joined the board as associate editors. Shane Frederick has joined as a consulting editors. Jean-Robert Tyran has resigned as an associate editor (as a result of becoming a dean — the second time this has happened).

We signed the Transparency and openness promotion (TOP) guidelines for journals. This led to some revision of our main page, spelling out some of the options. In some ways, we are still ahead of the recommended requirements in ways I would like to see adopted, i.e., publication of data and materials with the journal (hence not dependent on the whims of webmasters elsewhere), open access with no author fees, and even frequent review of data as part of the review process.

Some good news for the long-term future of the journal is that I have decided to accept the standing offer of the Society for Judgment and Decision Making, and the European Association for Decision Making, to hire a part-time helper to help translate Word files to \LaTeX. And Prof. Ed Merkle has also volunteered to help in other ways. I am becoming optimistic about the possibility that the current model for this journal — open access with no author charges — is sustainable without me doing the production, and perhaps without some of my more idiosyncratic obsessions with tables and figures (so that their quality would sink to the level tolerated by the American Psychological Association).

Data about the journal

In a study of estimated replicability of 54 psychology journals, JDM was ranked 8th, and was increasing over years. We are now approximately tied with the three Journal of Experimental Psychology journals (General, LMC, Human Perception and Performance). This is, I think, in part the result of increased concern about the effect of statistical power on the interpretation of standard p-values (as discussed in the journal’s statistical advice page). A similar policy has now been officially adopted by Psychological Science.

I am reluctant to mention the “impact factor” because it distorts the entire publication system, leading reviewers of researchers to evaluate researchers by the citations of other articles in the journals in which the researchers publish, with all
sorts of ugly side effects. That said, our last impact factor (2014) from Thompson was 1.521 overall (down from 2013) and 2.753 for five years (up from 2013). By comparison, the Journal of Behavioral Decision Making (JDBM) was 2.069 overall (about the same as 2013) and 2.526 (about the same as 2013). In Google Scholar’s “Metrics”, our 5-year h-index was 30 (unchanged). JDBM was 29 (up 1). I use JDBM as the comparison because it covers roughly the same territory, and citations are largely determined by the number of active researchers in a field.

The rate of submissions is holding steady. For the years 2007 through 2015, the approximate numbers of submissions per year were, respectively, 59, 77, 114, 143, 181, 216, 243, 249, and 253. The number of published articles is staying roughly constant: approximately 46, 49, 57, 45, 40, 58, 60, 47, and 56 for the eight years respectively (excluding special issues).

The submission rate is not as meaningful as it seems when we consider the fact that, for the last 5 years, the number of articles rejected in one day was 9, 45, 59, 68, 128, and 110. The slight decline may be the result of additional clarification in the journal’s site about what we publish and do not publish, although it still seems that many authors do not read this.

Thanks

The journal depends on the help of many people. Reviewers and board members have been extremely cooperative and prompt in processing articles. I would like to thank everyone and hope that the quality and speed continue. The following reviewed articles (roughly) in 2015:


**Technical stuff**

I remain indebted to the many writers of the open-source software that make the production process possible and sometimes even fun: \LaTeX, OpenOffice, Emacs, Firefox, Perl, Linux, R, other GNU software, and especially Writer2LaTeX (which extracts papers from the clutches of Microsoft), and Hevea (which makes the html versions with almost no extra effort on my part).

Recently more authors have been submitting articles in text format with \LaTeX formatting, which makes it easier for me. I still have problems with authors following the technical guidelines for word processing documents, and I am enforcing these more rigorously, even if it means delaying an article by two months.