



ACTA ACUSTICA

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ACUSTICA

The Journal of the European Acoustics Association (EAA) - International Journal on Acoustics

Annual report presented at the EAA GA in Ljubljana

September 2010

Dick Botteldooren Editor-in-Chief

SCOPE

This report gives information on the status and progress of the journal, the recent changes in the editorial board, and statistical data of the manuscript flow in the last year.

EDITORIAL BOARD

Not much has changed in the editorial board. We welcome one new Associate Editor:

Active Control

Joachim Scheuren

Müller-BBM GmbH

Joachim.Scheuren@MuellerBBM.de

MANAGEMENT

The European Acoustics Association (EAA), the publisher (Hirzel Verlag), the Associate Editors and Editor-in-Chief, continued their joint efforts to promote the journal. Amongst the initiatives taken to promote **ACTA ACUSTICA UNITED WITH ACUSTICA** within the Acoustics community we note:

- We continue to send a link to the table of content of each new issue to the Member Societies of EAA and via the ASA and the ASJ to all of their members as soon as it is available.
- Hirzel Verlag provides promotional material such as sample copies of the journal, sample CDs, posters and leaflets at several occasions, among which the Internoise 2010 Conference in Lisbon, the 20th International Congress on Acoustics (ICA) in Sidney as well as the EAA Euroregio 2010 Congress in Ljubljana.
- An improved online access system for EAA members has been designed and will become operational from Jan; 2011. It will allow EAA members to directly link to Ingenta connect from the **ACTA ACUSTICA UNITED WITH ACUSTICA** website: www.acta-acustica-united-with-acustica where authors also find a direct link to the online submission system.



S. Hirzel Verlag

VOLUME 95 (2009)

In Volume 95 (2009), 109 papers were published in ACTA ACUSTICA UNITED WITH ACUSTICA, more precisely:

- 92 scientific papers
- 11 technical and applied papers
- 5 short communications.
- 1 review article

One special section was included in Volume 95:

- Combustion Noise (10 scientific papers)

Guest editors: Martin Ochmann & Haike Brick

→ published in Vol. 95(3)

A supplement with the program and abstracts related to the Euronoise 2009 Conference in Edinburgh was sent together with volume 95 issue 5.

TRENDS AND STATISTICS

The first trend to be observed is that the number of papers published in recent volumes has reached a

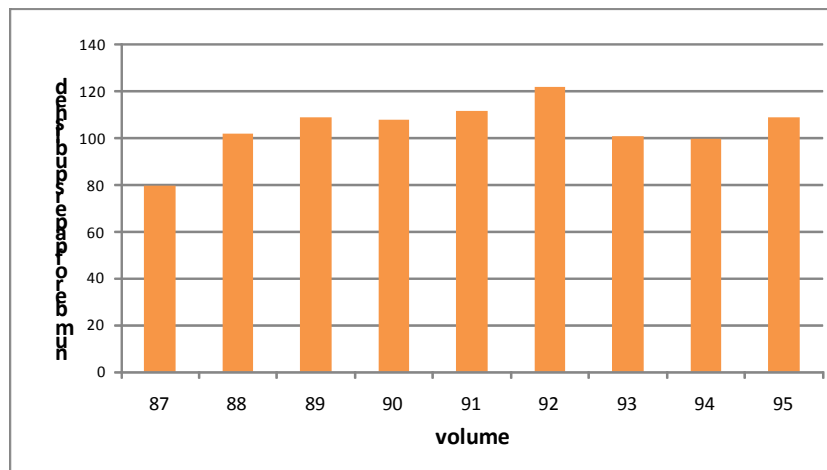


Figure 1

papers published shows a small upward trend again, i.e. 109 papers.

regime after the small dip in volume 87, 2001 (Figure 1). The slight increase in volume 92 is due to the 11 short communications from the OSA/DAGA meeting. The number of papers published in volume 93 and 94 is about the same (101 in volume 93 and 100 in volume 94). In volume 95 the number of

A second trend is the impact factor of the journal as calculated by the ISI. Some organisations use the impact factors of journal publications for evaluation purposes and hence authors use it as one of the criteria to select a journal.

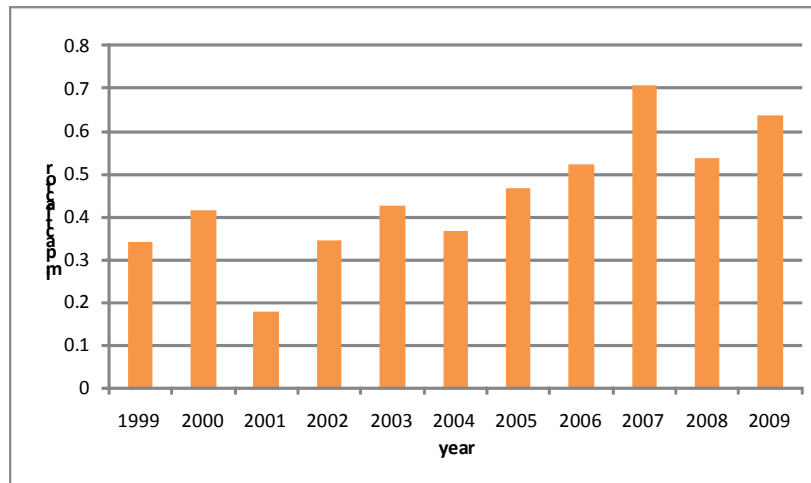


Figure 2

The impact factor has suffered a strong decrease in 2001, which was found out to be due to the name change of the journal in the previous year that was not considered in the calculation. Since 2004 the impact factor of ACTA ACUSTICA UNITED WITH ACUSTICA has started a climb as can be seen in

Figure 2. The impact factor of our journal peaked at 0.707 in 2007, which was the highest value ever. In 2008 the impact factor dropped back to its value from 2006. An upward trend is visible in 2009 (0.637).

A further analysis of the citations shown in the table below learns how ACTA ACUSTICA UNITED WITH ACUSTICA is situated amongst most other journals in the field. The numbers shown in blue contribute to the impact factor. The overall number of citations to all years and from all journals amount to 1431 for citations by articles

Number of citations by articles published in 2009 to articles published in ACTA ACUSTICA UNITED WITH ACUSTICA

Citing journal	All years	2009	2008	2007	2006	2005	2004	
All journals	1431	11	47	81	84	95	104	...
JASA	265	5	7	16	17	25	15	
AA.A	190	0	10	22	23	13	17	...
Appl. Acoustics	80	0	2	4	1	3	5	...
JSV	48	0	1	4	4	4	4	...
...

published in 2009. (2008: 1473 citations, 2007: 1176 citations, 2006: 1138 citations).

The trend in impact factor over the last couple of years seems to be explained by a number of manuscripts that was published in a special issue in 2005. These articles attracted more than the average number of citations. The drop in impact factor in 2008 reflects that these articles are no longer counted. The articles referred to fall in the broader area of psychoacoustics. It is well known that citation culture is different with authors publishing in engineering topics probably citing least their colleagues. Including articles from medicine, psychology, etc. increases the number of citations of the journal. This also partly explains why journals like JASA have high impact factors although virtually in the same field as **ACTA ACUSTICA UNITED WITH ACUSTICA**. The drop in the impact factor in 2008 triggered a detailed analysis of the citation culture in Acoustics in general and in Acta Acustica united with Acustica in particular. This led to a few action points related to quality assurance, stimulate authors to cite more, bringing the content fast to the authors, and getting more conference proceedings in acoustics into citation indices which have been and will be discussed with the relevant actors.

The number of manuscripts received monthly and their status in August 2010 is shown in Figure 3. Since the introduction of the Editorial Manager system in Jan. 2008 we have in total 230 manuscripts accepted and 136 manuscripts rejected. The total number of received manuscripts for the period from January 2008 till August 2010 is about 520. Peaks in manuscript flow are due to the deadlines of special sections.

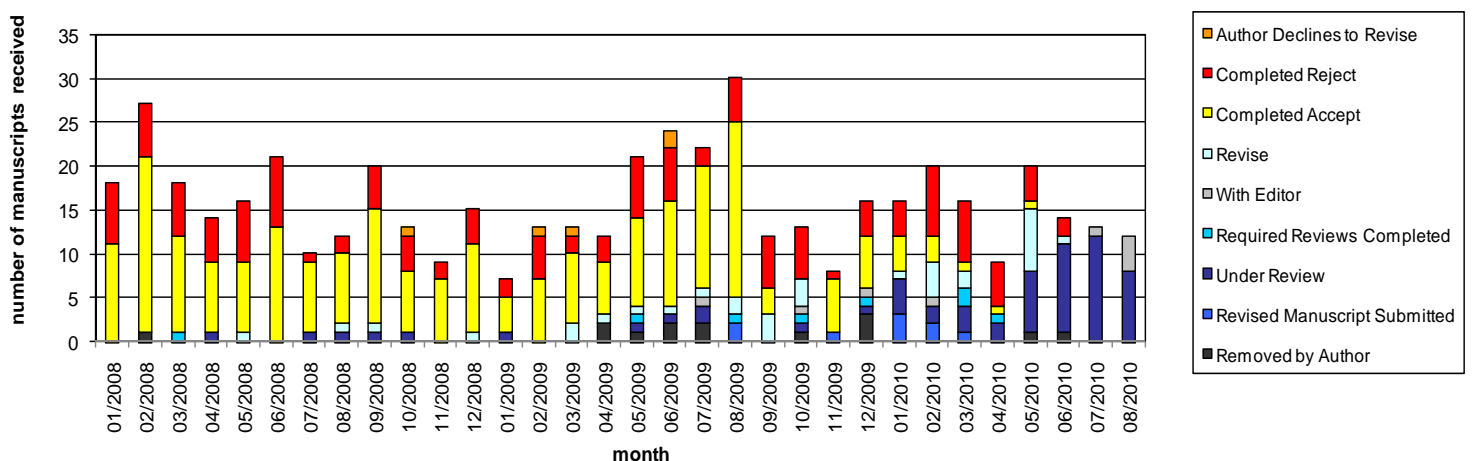


Figure 3



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Since the introduction of the online submission system it is possible to generate statistics which are an indication of how long key activities are taking in the editorial process. For the period January 1st, 2008 till August 31st, 2010 these statistics are shown in the tables below. To get sufficiently stable statistics on manuscript handling time we are still showing the whole period from the beginning of the database. Within a year it will be possible to analyze changes over the years.

Journal Turnaround Time (January 1st, 2008 – August 31st, 2010)

Submission to Technical Check Complete <i>Average number of days between the date the manuscript was received and technical check was completed.</i>	0.9
Technical Check Complete to Editor Assignment <i>Average number of days between the date the technical check was completed and the first Editor was assigned.</i>	6.1
Submission to Editor Assignment <i>Average number of days between the date the manuscript was received and the first Editor was assigned.</i>	6.2
Submission to Reviewer Invitation <i>Average number of days between the date the manuscript was received and the first Reviewer was invited.</i>	19.5
Submission to First Decision <i>Average number of days between the date the manuscript was received and the first decision.</i>	104.1





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Reviewer Performance Averages (January 1st, 2008 - August 31st, 2010)

Days to Respond to Invitation <i>Average number of days between date Reviewer was invited and date Reviewer agreed or declined to review. Note the Reviewer may have been invited at any time; this calculation includes reviews that were agreed to or declined during the specified time period.</i>	6.8
Days to Complete Review (from Date Invited) <i>Average days between date Reviewer was invited to review and the date the review was completed.</i>	45.3
Days to Complete Review (from Date Agreed to Review) <i>Average days between date Reviewer agreed to the review invitation and the date the review was completed.</i>	39.4
Number of Reviews per Reviewer <i>Average number of reviews completed by each Reviewer during the time period.</i>	1.6
Number of Late Reviews <i>Total number of reviews completed after the due date.</i>	439
Average Days Late <i>For all the Late Reviews specified above, the average number of days those reviews were submitted after the due date.</i>	19.4
Number of Early Reviews <i>Total number of reviews completed on or before the due date.</i>	607
Average Days Early <i>For all the Early Reviews specified above, the average number of days those reviews were submitted on or before the due date.</i>	16.9



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Decision Summary (January 1st, 2008 – August 31st, 2010)

Original Submission

Editor Decision Term	Total Decisions	Frequency of Decision	Average Time to Decision
Accepted	9	2%	90.8
Major Revision	192	43.5%	115.5
Minor Revision	117	26.5%	103.4
Rejected	113	25.6%	96.7
Rejected before review	10	2.3%	18.6
Total Editor Decisions	441	100%	104.8

Revision 1

Editor Decision Term	Total Decisions	Frequency of Decision	Average Time to Decision
Accepted	154	61.6%	35.9
Major Revision	29	11.6%	96
Minor Revision	58	23.2%	66.5
Rejected	9	3.6%	80
Total Editor Decisions	250	100%	51.6

Revision 2

Editor Decision Term	Total Decisions	Frequency of Decision	Average Time to Decision
Accepted	57	75%	17
Major Revision	4	5.3%	111
Minor Revision	11	14.5%	60.8
Rejected	4	5.3%	84
Total Editor Decisions	76	100%	31.8

Revision 3

Editor Decision Term	Total Decisions	Frequency of Decision	Average Time to Decision
Accepted	9	81.8%	6.9
Minor Revision	2	18.2%	64
Total Editor Decisions	11	100%	17.3

Revision 4

Editor Decision Term	Total Decisions	Frequency of Decision	Average Time to Decision
Accepted	2	100%	48.5
Total Editor Decisions	2	100%	48.5

The 6-month averaged number of submission (Figure 5) tells us about the incoming flow of manuscripts. Spontaneous submissions were neither invited nor part of a special section. This number fluctuated between 9 and 13 until Jan 2008, which is too low for filling the contractual number of pages. Invited papers and special sections raise the average to about 15, which is what is needed. Since the introduction of the online submission system there seems to be a slight increase in the number of spontaneous submissions but the fluctuation (even 6 month averaged is rather large). This increase may however be accompanied by a small increase in rejection rate.

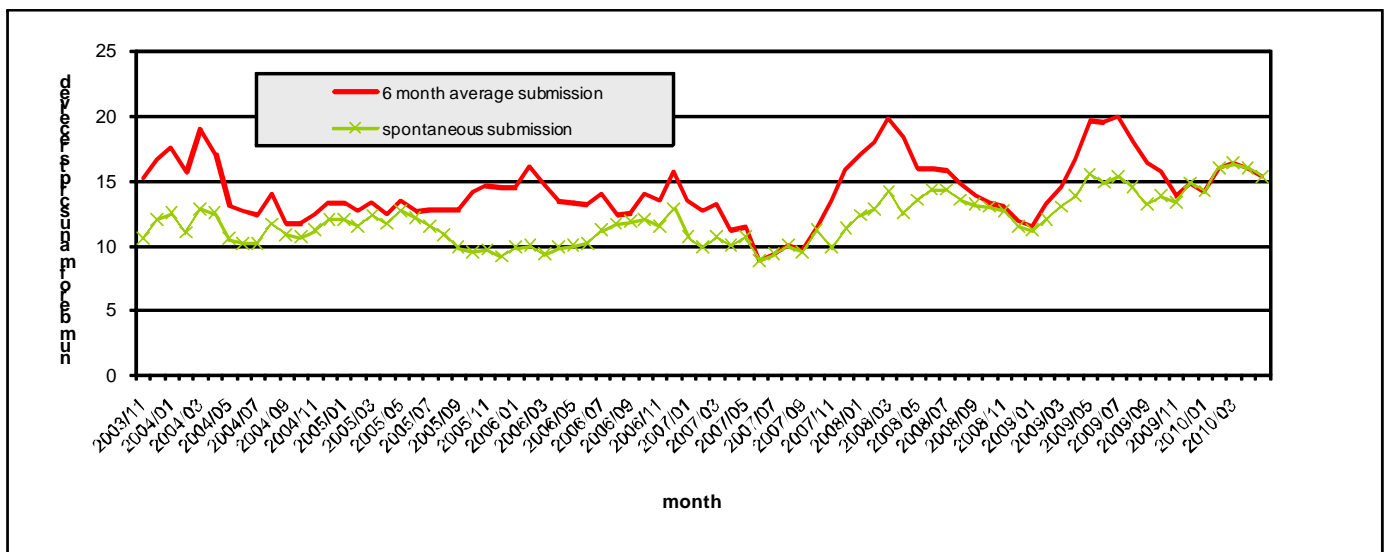


Figure 5

VOLUME 96

Two special sections were printed in this volume:

- Acoustics of poro-elastic materials
(8 scientific papers)
Guest editors: Kiril Horoshenkov, François-Xavier Bécot and Luc Jaouen
→ published in Vol. 96(2)
- Natural and virtual musical instruments: control, gesture and player interaction
(14 scientific papers)
Guest editors: Jean Kergomard, Philippe Guillemaine and Stefan Bilbao
→ published in Vol. 96(4)

The abstract supplement for the EAA Euroregio 2010 Congress in Ljubljana will be shipped with issue 5.