

JAMIA—Status after the First Year

While working hard to accommodate different types of material,¹ the JAMIA Editorial Board set rigorous quality standards for the journal, starting with the first issue. Instead of focusing on page counts, the amount of worthy material in hand has determined the size of each issue.

Of the manuscripts received for consideration for the first volume of the journal, a total of 40% were accepted for publication. Table 1 provides a breakdown of the number of manuscripts that were rejected after an initial screening versus the number that were rejected after full review, together with the number of revisions that were required for manuscripts that were ultimately published.

The Editorial Board and the outside referees have met our objectives to provide a rapid review process and a minimum time between acceptance and publication. Table 2 provides a breakdown of the turnaround times for the editorial process and the publication process for manuscripts that were considered for inclusion in the first volume of the journal. On average, only 35 days passed between receipt of a manuscript and notification to the author of the outcome of the review process. If it were not for only two reviews, by different reviewers, the range would have shown that we achieved our target of a maximum turnaround time of 8 weeks.

The Editorial Board often gets calls asking whether JAMIA might be interested in a particular type of article. If you think you have a message that is important to people working in the field of medical informatics, prepare it and submit it for review. In only a month, on average 17 days, you will find out whether your work fits the journal's goals well enough to justify full review.

Table 1 ■

Outcomes of the Review Process for Manuscripts Received for Consideration for Volume 1 of the *Journal of the American Medical Informatics Association*

Reject 60%	Initial screen Full review	20% 40%
Accept 40%	1 Revision 2 Revisions 3 Revisions	23% 15% 2%

Table 2 ■

Turnaround Times for the Editorial Process and the Publication Process for Manuscripts Received for Consideration for Volume 1 of the *Journal of the American Medical Informatics Association*

Receipt to notification of outcome	
Reject on initial screen	17 days (6–30)*
Reject after full review	43 days (6–128)
Accept subject to revision	36 days (2–98)
Average overall	35 days
Final accept to publication	4.4 months

*Range in days.

The rapid review process has two sides. Before a manuscript is sent out for review, an Associate Editor contacts the reviewer to see whether there is a conflict of interest or time commitment. If not, the manuscript is express mailed to the reviewer, flagged with a specially printed red post-it note. If you agree to review a manuscript for JAMIA, don't put the manuscript aside. Stay up the night that it arrives and read it once. Stay up the next night and do the full review. This is no harder than staying up 2 weeks later when the deadline arrives!

Table 3 provides a breakdown of the categories of the 3,202 subscribers who were receiving the journal at the end of its first year. The majority of these come from the AMIA membership. That is not an accident. The pricing structure is such that it makes sense to join AMIA if you are interested in receiving the journal. We are pleased that we were able to get 116 library subscriptions in the first year. This represents unusual success for a specialty journal in the current budgetary climate.

In January 1995, the National Library of Medicine notified the publisher that JAMIA had been accepted

Table 3 ■

Categories of the Subscribers Who Were Receiving the *Journal of the American Medical Informatics Association* at the End of Its First Year

AMIA member subscriptions	2,912
Non-AMIA member subscriptions	174
Institutional subscriptions	116
TOTAL	3,202

for indexing in MEDLARS, and that the indexing would be retroactive to the first issue. In December 1994, the Institute for Scientific Information (ISI) also selected *JAMIA* for coverage. It will include *JAMIA* in the *Science Citation Index*, the *Social Sciences Citation Index*, *SciSearch*, *Social SciSearch*, *Research Alert*, *Current Contents/Social & Behavioral Sciences*, and *Current Contents/Clinical Medicine*.

WILLIAM W. STEAD, MD

■ J Am Med Informatics Assoc. 1995;2:200-201.

Reference ■

1. Stead WW. *JAMIA*—content in evolution. J Am Med Informatics Assoc. 1994;1:356-7.

Correspondence and reprints: William W. Stead, MD, The Annette and Irwin Eskind Biomedical Library, Vanderbilt University Medical Center, Nashville, TN 37232-8340. Internet: bill.stead@mcmail.vanderbilt.edu

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