

JARE Editors’ Report

June 1, 2018–May 31, 2019

The *JARE* editorial team of Dragan Miljkovic, Anton Bekkerman, Darren Hudson, and Richard Woodward began their three-year term on January 10, 2018. Their first issue as an editorial team was Volume 44, Issue 1, published in January 2019. Between June 1, 2018, and May 31, 2019, they handled 262 submissions and accepted 34. The previous editorial team was responsible for selecting the outstanding *JARE* article for this annual meeting, and the current editorial team selected the outstanding reviewers in each category.

Table 1 reports publication details for the two issues published to date by the team in 2019. Both the January and May issues contained 12 articles; the September issue will include 11 articles (including the Presidential Address).

Table 1 reports publication details for the three issues published by in the past year.

Table 1: Articles and Page Counts

January 2019 (Volume 44, Issue 1)	May 2019 (Volume 44, Issue 2)	September 2019 (Volume 44, Issue 3)	Total
12 articles (226 pages, plus 21 pages online supplements)	12 articles (229 pages, plus 15 pages online supplements)	11 articles (207 pages, plus 16 pages online supplement)	35 articles (662 pages, plus 52 pages online supplements)

JARE Publication Costs: *JARE* publication costs are incurred in three general areas: Editorial Team, Publications Editing, and Printing. The Editorial Team manages the review and publication process. The Team’s costs are fixed on an annual basis and include editors’ stipends (\$3,500/year/editor) and subscription fees for the manuscript submission software and database (\$2,500/year). Assuming that each volume (a total of three issues) contains 500 printed pages, these costs total approximately \$33/page.

Publications Editing involves both copyediting and formatting final documents into pdfs that are used by Sheridan Press during the printing process. This process involves formatting text and figures, checking references, resolving technical errors, and formatting figures/tables to maintain consistency and fit within available space. These costs are approximately \$24/page.

Finally, Sheridan Press prints, binds, and mails print versions of the Journal to members and other subscribers. Some of these costs are fixed and some are variable. Total costs for the most recent issue were approximately \$8/page. In January 2018, *JARE* opted to switch from traditional off-set printing to a digital print, a significant cost savings. Costs for Sheridan had previously been around \$25–\$30/page.

In summary, *JARE*’s costs per printed page are approximately \$65/page. These costs are met through a combination of page charges (\$79–\$89/page), member dues, subscriptions, royalties, and WAEA assets.

JARE Manuscript Management: Table 2 reports submission details from June 1, 2018, to May 31, 2019. The team handled 268 submissions, which is approximately 5% higher than the 10-year average (see Table 3). There was an acceptance rate of 14.5%, which is 4.5 and 2.5 percentage

Table 2: Status of Manuscripts Submitted June 1, 2018–May 31, 2019

Submissions:	269	(10 pending)
Total Rejected:	221	(85.33%)
Desk Rejected:	116	(44.79%)
Rejected after Review:	51	(19.69%)
w/ Option to Resubmit:	54	(20.85%)
Accepted and Published:	38	(14.67%)

points higher than the 5- and 10-year averages, respectively. Almost 50% of submitted articles are desk rejected, consistent with previous years.

To situate these numbers in some historical context, Table 3 provides the same information beginning with the 2009–2010 journal year. Please note that these numbers are not directly comparable, as all of the submissions from these previous years have been completed.

Table 3: Manuscripts Submitted, June 2009 – May 2019

	Total	Rejected (Total)	Rejected (w/o Review)	Rejected (w/ Review)	Revise & Resubmit	Accepted	Acceptance Rate
2009–2010	231	195	81	38	76	36	15.06%
2010–2011	220	182	92	47	43	38	17.27%
2011–2012	219	187	106	39	42	32	14.61%
2012–2013	267	245	145	45	55	22	8.24%
2013–2014	273	243	128	61	54	30	10.99%
2014–2015	255	235	128	53	54	20	7.84%
2015–2016	301	268	131	82	55	32	10.63%
2016–2017	236	216	105	63	48	19	8.05%
2017–2018	264	231	101	58	72	33	12.50%
2018–2019*	269	221	116	51	54	38	12.50%
Average	252	223	113	54	55	29	11.70%

*At the time of publication, 10 articles remained in process for this year.

Table 4 reports summary statistics for reviewers. As can be seen, roughly 60% of closed reviewer assignments were completed, which is slightly below the long-term average (see Table 5). This past year saw a slightly lower than average rate of reviews declined. Mean and median review times were lower than the long-term at slightly over one month.

To provide context, Table 5 presents review information from previous years. Data suggest that mean review times have continued to decline, although median times are fairly consistent. This, we believe, is the result of terminating reviews that drag on too long and moving to alternate reviewers in a more timely manner, resulting in fewer “extreme” review scenarios. Our goal is to continue to move reviews through the process as quickly as possible to expedite decisions and improve the time between acceptance and publication.

Additional Updates: The journal has made several advances toward increasing its visibility and understanding how users interact with the *JARE* website. Beginning with the January 2019 issue,

Table 4: Reviewer Details, June 1, 2018–May 31, 2019*

Total reviews assigned:	347	
Pending:	15	
Closed:	332	
Status:		
Expired or unassigned:	72	(21.69%)
Declined:	68	(20.48%)
Completed:	192	(57.83.xx%)
Completed review time (in days):		
Mean:	38.81	
Median:	36	

*At the time of publication, 15 reviews are pending for the year.

Table 5: Reviewer Details, April 2009 – May 2019

	Reviews Assigned	Expired or Unassigned	Declined	Completed	Mean Review Time	Median Review Time
2009–2010	296	47	40	209	43.78	39
2010–2011	229	16	45	168	47.70	37.5
2011–2012	230	26	48	156	41.80	36
2012–2013	370	60	79	231	43.28	36
2013–2014	433	66	109	258	43.96	36
2014–2015	391	61	94	236	53.09	41.5
2015–2016	427	66	90	271	54.07	37
2016–2017	322	53	55	214	43.17	36
2017–2018	372	69	88	215	37.46	37
2018–2019	347	72	68	192	38.81	36
Average	342	54	72	215	44.71	37
		(15.69%)	(20.95%)	(62.92%)		

*At the time of publication, 15 reviews are pending for the year.

the journal began to send email updates to WAEA members summarizing the published articles. Part of the effort was engaging authors of published articles to provide 280-character short summaries of their papers to include in the update. These descriptions are intended to efficiently inform email recipients about journal content and increase readership.

The editorial team has also requested and received access to the *JARE* website’s Google Analytics dashboard. This enables the team to be better informed about users’ interactions with the *JARE* website, understand how changes to content and website design affect users’ experiences, and learn about individuals’ use of *JARE* content beyond traditional citation metrics. This information is particularly relevant because the majority of WAEA members choose to receive *JARE* electronically and are most likely to engage with the journal via the publication’s website. We expect that the implementation of the *JARE* update email will further increase this type of engagement.

During the June 1, 2018–May 31, 2019, period, *JARE*’s website averaged approximately 1,700 views per month. There was approximately a 34% higher engagement rate in September 2018 and January 2019, months when new issues of the journal are published. Nearly 40% of visits to the *JARE*

website originated from the United States. Within the United States, just over 50% of visits were from (in order of most to least) California, Kansas, Texas, Washington, Illinois, Colorado, New York, Virginia, Idaho, Indiana, Washington, DC, and Nebraska.

Table 6 provides a historical overview of *JARE* website use. The data indicate that total and average pageviews have consistently decreased over the past five periods and that the bounce rate has increased. However, there has been an increase in the average time that a user spends on a page associated with the journal. Our goal is to continue to understand what aspects of the *JARE* communication strategy and website design can help improve the *JARE* website to be an effective resource to disseminate journal publications.

Table 6: *JARE* Website Pageviews, June 2014 – May 2019

	Total Pageviews	Average Pageviews per Month	Users' Average Time on Page ^a	Bounce Rate ^b
2014–2015	25,003	2,084	1.40	73.48%
2015–2016	26,249	2,187	0.91	71.24%
2016–2017	22,940	1,912	1.25	71.19%
2017–2018	22,335	1,861	1.25	73.60%
2018–2019	20,347	1,696	1.52	78.13%
Average	23,375	1,948	1.26	73.53%

^a Measured in minutes.

^b Bounce rate refers to percentage of individuals who leave a website after visiting only a single page on that website.

Conclusion: The editors greatly appreciate the efforts of Amy Bekkerman, our Publications Editor; Kristen McGuire and Vanessa Nicholas of EDI; and Lisa Darrow and the staff of Sheridan Press for overseeing the review process, publication, and distribution of each issue. We also wish to thank the hundreds of reviewers who have provided us with extensive comments on the suitability of submitted manuscripts. We have also enjoyed working with George Chronis of the University of Missouri's FastTrack electronic submission management system. Some goals for the coming year include

- Working with EDI to better disseminate when new *JARE* content is released and available to members,
- Improving/establishing *JARE* as an open-access journal to increase visibility of researcher output and the stature of the journal,
- Exploring potential for improving the design of the *JARE* website, and
- Improving indexing and citation information to enhance member/author impact for their articles.

Respectfully submitted,

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Darren Hudson, and Richard Woodward, co-editors
Journal of Agricultural and Resource Economics