

Opening up to Open Access

The Journal of the National Science Foundation of Sri Lanka drops delayed Open Access and sees a startling growth in readership

Uthpala Karunaratne, National Science Foundation of Sri Lanka (November 2013)

Summary

The Journal of the National Science Foundation of Sri Lanka has been published on Sri Lanka Journals Online since 2008, making use of Delayed Open Access — a feature that has been adopted by many publishers around the world. The JNSF lifted this embargo in June 2013 and has since experienced exponential growth both in downloads of articles and foreign submissions.

The Journal of the National Science Foundation of Sri Lanka (JNSF) has a 41 year history, commencing its publication as a scientific journal back in 1973. The Journal was cited by the Science Citation Index Expanded in the last quarter of 2008, and was among the first journals to be included on Sri Lanka Journals Online (SLJOL). Inclusion on SLJOL meant the journal was available under Open Access. However, at the beginning JNSF carried an embargo period of one year — this was later reduced to six months. The main intention of having an embargo period was to ensure that there was an income from subscriptions.

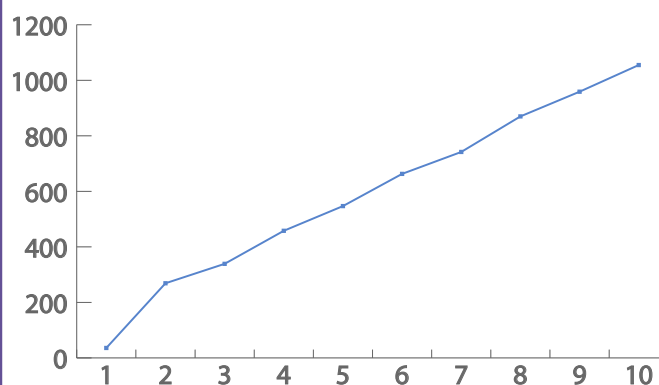
During the embargo period, we received a number of requests for full articles from researchers around the world. At the same time statistics obtained from SLJOL showed that abstracts of the articles published had received an average of 92 views during the first three months after publishing. This is an indication that the JNSF has a wider readership (especially online) and the potential to be cited. The increase of the Impact Factor (from 0.134 in 2011 to 0.232 in 2012) emphasized the need to provide more full text articles, which would aid in generating more citations and, in turn, continue to increase the Impact Factor.

The JNSF was declared full Open Access from the June 2013 issue onwards, making the contents freely available from the 27th of June. Since then we have observed an exponential growth of full text downloads of the recent issue, starting from 36 downloads after one day to 1055 downloads after 10 weeks, with an average of 96 downloads per article. It is also interesting to see that the total number of downloads (in all the issues) had increased by 30,290 which projects to a rapid growth compared to previous quarters.

It is also interesting to note that the number of foreign submissions has increased by 75% during this period. The origin of these manuscripts varies from the South Asian region, to Africa and Europe.

The JNSF will continue to monitor the impact of the immediate Open Access policy that has been adopted on the visibility of Sri Lankan research to the global scientific community.

Article downloads over 10 weeks



The most recent issue of JNSF saw a consistent rise in article downloads over the first ten weeks in comparison with other issues. With an initial jump of over 200, and roughly 100 in each of the following weeks.

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The JNSF publishes the results of research in all aspects of Science and Technology.

New and back issues can be found through Sri Lanka Journals Online:

<http://www.sljol.info/index.php/JNSFSL>

