

Electronic medical journalism today

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The level we have now reached for our journal *Diagnostic and Interventional Radiology* in electronic medical journalism and on-line submission services, whose preliminary studies were started in early 2003, and that were put into service in June 2003, is quite satisfactory. The total number of the manuscripts that were submitted to our journal in the year 2003 by conventional mail was 160, whereas 31 of them were submitted on-line. The number was 27 for conventional mail and 193 for on-line submission in 2004 and 3 for conventional mail and 164 for on-line submission in 2005.

The articles that are submitted on-line can be evaluated in a shorter time. For example, the average evaluation period of the articles that were submitted by conventional mail was 116 days whereas for those that were submitted on-line was 22 days. Electronic medical journalism that forms an uninterrupted communication platform among the author, board of editors, production coordination group, and the reviewers raises the overall quality of *Diagnostic and Interventional Radiology*.

The presence of medical journals on the internet and on-line publication of medical journals are not only of great importance in terms of the distribution of scientific knowledge, but also in terms of the increase in the number of referrals to the journals which leads to an increase in the impact factor. One of the firsts in Turkey that were introduced by *Diagnostic and Interventional Radiology* is its quality of being the first journal to provide a link-out option in PubMed and to grant free access to all its articles by the use of a special icon. The U. S. National Library of Medicine, developer of PubMed, provides monthly statistical data for the journals in its database. According to this data, our link-out icon that links PubMed users to articles in *Diagnostic and Interventional Radiology* and its predecessor *Tanısıl ve Girişimsel Radyoloji*, has reached more than 1,600 clicks/month by June 2005 (compare this with 1,000-1,200 clicks/month during the first few months following the introduction of the link-out option for our journal in October 2004).

Another improvement concerning our journal is its early 2005 application to the Directory of Open Access Journals (DOAJ), which is a Swedish database providing free access to journals. Currently, 413 journals are in this database that provides free access to the full text articles in these journals. I believe our journal will be in this database in the near future. Information on this matter may be reached at www.doaj.org.

Our journal is also included by SCOPUS, which covers more than 14,000 peer-reviewed titles and claims to be "the world's largest abstract and indexing database" and is based on Elsevier/EMBASE database (www.scopus.com).

One of the important developments in the world in electronic medical journalism is that a part of the major scientific journals that would require membership to reach the full-text of the articles have now

given free access to the full-text of the articles for the previous years' issues, while retaining the subscription requirement for the current year's issues (some journals provide this facility either excluding the issues of the last two years or one year only). Sometime ago, free access was possible

for the full-text of the articles in the issues older than two years of *Radiology* and *Radiographics* which are two of the most prestigious journals in the field of radiology, whereas free access to the issues older than only one year is now possible. For instance, there is now free access to the July-August

2004 issue of *Radiographics* and August 2004 issue of *Radiology*.

In conclusion, I believe that electronic medical journalism is here to stay and scientific journals that aspire to reach higher levels of quality should aim to improve themselves in this regard.