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Fourteen years of *Nepal Journal of Neuroscience*

Nepal Journal of Neuroscience (*NJNS*) was started in 2004 with its office in Department of Neurosurgery, Tribhuvan University Institute of Medicine. It was started as a biannual publication and remained so till 2017 when the number was increased to 3/year. This study aims to find the patterns of publication and topics since its inception to present. A total of 257 articles were published within this study period. This gives an average of 18.3 articles/ year with range from 9-32 articles/year. Considering the type of article published, the majority were original articles (90). Followed closely by case reports (87), review articles (29), editorial (18), neuro view box (19) and others. The parent country of origin, i.e. Nepal remains the largest contributor to the journal with 193 articles, followed by India (23), USA (9), Japan (7) and UK and Bangladesh (6 each). *NJNS* is the only platform in Nepal for neurosciences to showcase their research which will help to collect the nation-wide data and will in the long-term help to formulate rules and regulations, where applicable, to control and implement the various findings. I thus request all readers and well-wishers to continue their support to *NJNS* to make it one of the foremost research journal in neurosciences not only from Nepal but in the region.

Key words: Nepal Journal of Neuroscience, Journal of Neurosurgery, Nepal, NepJol,

Nepal Journal of Neuroscience (*NJNS*) was started in 2004 by Dr Mohan Sharma, with its office in department of neurosurgery, Tribhuvan University Teaching Hospital. It was started as a biannual publication and remained so till 2017 when the number was increased to 3/year. The historical details of the start by the founder editor has been covered previously and in a separate topic within this journal issue.⁸ Barring one volume (2012 volume 2) that was not published due to various reasons *NJNS* has been published almost every year. After being independently published by the society for few years, it is presently published by Nepalese Society of Neurosurgeons and listed under Nepal Journals Online (NepJol) a major

platform that includes the majority of scientific journal from Nepal. Presently it is published 3 volumes/year and is available in NepJol, Google Scholar and ISSN (print {1813-1948} and online {1813-1956}).⁴ Presently we are trying to revoke its indexing within WHO-Hinari too.

This study aims to find the patterns of publication and topics since its inception to present.

Methodology:

This is a retrospective study between 2004 to 2017 from the online archives of *NJNS* accessed from www.neson.org.np with unavailability to access one volume

Topic/year	2004	'05	'06	'07	'08	'09	'10	'11	'12	'13	'14	'15	'16	2017
Oncology	3	3	3	1	1	4	2	3	1	4	3	4	2	7
TBI		2	1	1		1	3	1	1	3	3	2	2	4
Vascular	2	2				3		1	1	4	3	4		3
Neurology		3			1			2		7	7	2	4	5
Spine	1	2			5				3	1	1		9	6
Neuroradiology	1			1			1	1				1		
Neuropsychiatry			1		1		1	1						
Congenital/ Hydrocephalus					1					1	3	2		1
Pediatric	2	1	1										2	1
Miscellaneous		8	4	3	1	2		2	2	2	2	2	5	3
Infective	2	3		2	1	1	1			1		2	3	
Functional/ epilepsy	6	2	2	4	4	5	1				1	1	2	1
Peripheral nerve										1	2		1	1
Total	17	26	12	12	15	16	9	11	8	24	25	20	30	32

Table 1 : Showing the Topic of Publication in a yearly submission from 2004 to 2017.

(volume 2, 2012) and few articles. The articles published were categorized in Topic of study, Type of article and the Country of submission. The topics include both adult and pediatric neurosurgery, neurology, neuropsychiatry, neuroradiology, infective and other subjects. Type of article include, Editorial, Review articles, Original articles, Case report, Neuroview box and other topics. The number of articles, type and country of submission were studied on a yearly basis and as a grand total till present.

Results:

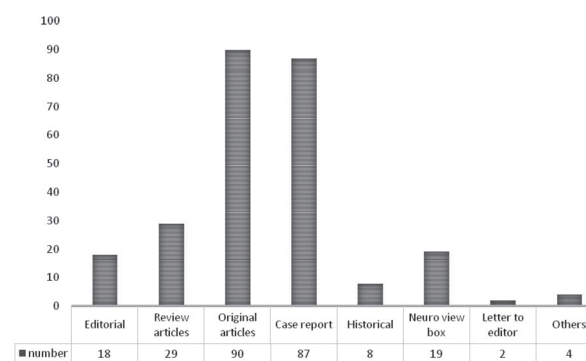
Topics of Neurosurgery published (Table 1):

A total of 257 articles were published within this study period. This gives an average of 18.3 articles/ year with range from 9-32 articles/year. The initial years and the past few years have shown the maximum articles published in comparison to the middle years (2010-13). The maximum was interestingly in 2017 which may be because of the increase of the number of publications from 2 to 3/year.

The least number of submissions was in neuropsychiatry (4) and the maximum in oncology(41) followed by miscellaneous (38), the latter which included molecular research, obituary, epidemiology related topics and personal views. TBI, vascular, neurology, functional/epilepsy and spine had almost similar number of submissions. Rest of the topics were related to infective,pediatric,hydrocephalus ,neuroradiology and peripheral nerves.

Types of articles published (Table 2):

Considering the type of articles published, the majority were original articles(90). Followed by case reports(87), review articles (29), editorial (18), neuro view box(19) and others. In the middle years there is no record of editorial and in the later years there are no historical articles. In comparison to the early years the number of review articles has significantly reduced in number. Original articles and case reports has grown significantly in the later years of the study. The policy of publishing a single neuroview box per volume has been fulfilled in all the volumes of the journal.



Country of submission (Table 1) &(Figure 1):

The parent country of origin, i.e. Nepal remains the largest contributor to the journal with 193 articles, followed by India (23), USA (9), Japan (7) and UK and Bangladesh (6 each). Other countries which have equal

Topic/Year	2004	'05	'06	'07	'08	'09	'10	'11	'12	'13	'14	'15	'16	2017
Letter to Editor										1				1
Editorial	1	2	1					1	1	2	2	2	4	2
Review article	7	6	3	2	2	4		1	1	1		1		1
Original article	5	7	2	3	4	4	3	4	4	10	13	8	11	12
Case report	3	4	2	5	6	6	5	5	2	8	8	7	13	13
Historical		2	2	1	1	2								
Neuro view box	1	2	1	1	2		1			2	2	2	2	3
Others		3	1											
Total	17	26	12	12	15	16	9	11	8	24	25	20	30	32

Table 2: Showing the different types of articles submitted in the study period.

Country /year	2004	'05	'06	'07	'08	'09	'10	'11	'12	'13	'14	'15	'16	2017
Nepal	11	15	9	6	12	10	5	7	4	18	22	18	25	29
USA	6	2			1									
India		1		2		1	3	4	2	3	1	2	3	1
UK		2	2	1		1								
Australia		1												
UAE														1
Thailand		1												
Turkey		1												
China									1				1	1
Bangladesh						3	1				1		1	
Japan		2		1		1				1	1			
Germany		1			1									
Pakistan														1
Bulgaria					1									
Mauritius			1	2										

Table 3: Table showing the yearly Country of origin for Submission of Articles to this Journal.

or less than three articles are given in the Table 3. In its inception USA had remained a major contributor but over the years there has been no further submissions from that country. India has remained consistent with upto 3/year submissions. In the later years there has been less and less submissions from the developed countries.

Discussion:

It is not easy to start a journal and it's even more difficult to maintain any journal. The same applies to *NJNS*s described earlier it took a mammoth task to start *NJNS* and we are fortunate that it has maintained so

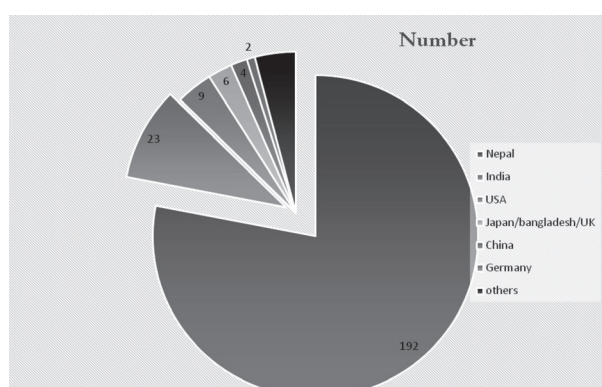


Figure 1: Diagram depicting the major countries of submission of articles.

over the years. I would like to give a brief description of one of neurosurgery's most coveted journal, Journal of Neurosurgery, *JNS*, too was started in 1944 under the aegis of a single person and five board members, at the time when there was shortage of paper in USA due to the world war II and with only *Eight* articles!^{1,3,6} At its beginning all of the review, editing, publishing was done was the chief editor and presently it needs a huge team to bring *JNS* and *Journal of Neurosurgery: Spine and Journal of Neurosurgery: Pediatrics (JNSPG)* to print. In its first year Since that journal's inception in 1944, when out of 63 manuscripts and 45 papers were published, in 1997, 1120 papers were submitted to JNSPG and 318 were accepted and in 2006, of the 2959 papers submitted only 894 were accepted.⁴

NJNS has had a consistent performance over the years. The journal encourages publication and the editorial board believes that if possible all articles to be published to encourage the growth of research and scientific writing within the country. The number of articles has been consistent per issue and include all the varied subjects of neurosciences. Beginning 2017, the new editorial board has become stricter in its peer review system and will thus ensure maximum safeguard to avoid plagiarism and of selection of unwanted materials. As the number of manuscript submissions increase its important to increase the number of publications each year to reduce the backlog as with any journal.² *NJNS* thus has also increased the publication to three per year beginning 2017 to accommodate all the articles. Along with the renowned neurosurgeons, neurologist, psychiatrist, radiologist and other medical department members from Nepal who have

published in *NJNS* other renowned persons like, Prof. Bryan Jennet, Prof. Atul Goel, Prof. Jeffrey G. Ojemann have also authored articles.^{2,5,7,8}

Research is also important in the development of one's personal career and more importantly it is an essential part of the progress of any medical society. *NJNS* is the only platform in Nepal for neurosciences to showcase their research which will help to collect the nation-wide data and will in the long-term help to formulate rules and regulations, where applicable, to control and implement the various findings. I thank all readers and well wishers to continue their support to *NJNS* to make it one of the foremost research journal in neurosciences not only from Nepal but in the region.

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