

Reflections

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Headlines

This issue completes the 129th volume of the *Journal of the Institute of Brewing*. It's been a transformational year with the journal being published online by the IBD with the papers open access and, importantly, free! In 2023, 16 papers were published (four per issue) originating from 10 countries. With every issue, the 'in house' process to publish the *Journal* has evolved. Indeed, this issue benefits from the simplification in the management and action of proof reading edits. Over time this will improve the KPIs from submission to publication. The collective process will also benefit from the authors of manuscripts scrupulously reading and applying the instructions to authors. As is timely, there are some New Year ambitions for the next year. These include testing the integration of the processes for submission, review and publication of manuscripts in the OJS/PKP workflow and directly linking the contents (and search) of the previous 128 volumes of the *Journal*.

Papers

In 2023, there were 12 research articles and four reviews) similar to 2022 (14/2). The publications in 2022/23 came from Australia (0/1), Belgium (2/2), Brazil (0/1), China (4/3), Denmark (0/2), Finland (1/1), France (1/2), Germany (3/1), Nigeria (1/0), Spain (0/1), UK (1/3) and the USA (1/1).

Process development

Inevitably, 'publication' of the journal [online](#) in 2023 has been a steep learning curve. There is much detail to master but the OJS/PKP software has become progressively easier to use over 16 publications. Big thanks to Oliver Bremner, the IBDs Digital Content Developer who creates the pdfs and – over the last year – has facilitated numerous small changes honing the design and appearance of the publications. A recent and significant change is to simplify the process around the final editing step of the pdf prior publication. Hitherto the final edits

from the the author and myself would be made by Oliver using Adobe InDesign. Now, thanks to his able mentoring, I edit the InDesign files and then create/publish the final pdf online. This will have a positive impact iover time on KPI 4 (see below).

Instructions to authors

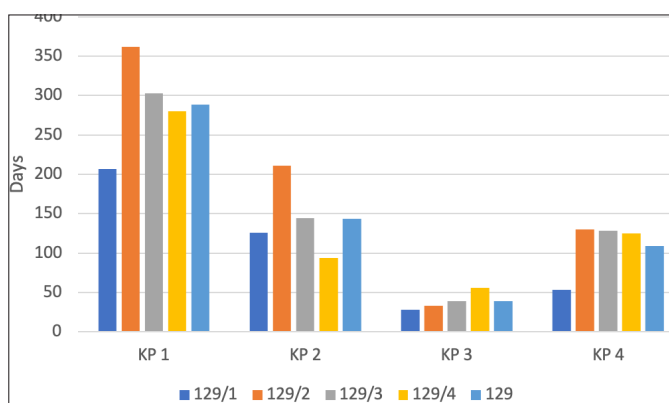
Flagging the need to read and apply the [instructions to authors](#) is becoming regular feature in *Reflections*. Recently, a third or more of submissions have issues; notably ignoring the requirements for structuring the abstract, incorrect punctuation and errors in the presentation of the references. The fate of such submissions is the request to ‘make good’ either through a ‘major revision’ or worse, ‘reject and submit’. This is a frustrating waste of (my) time and slows the process down.

Publication KPIs

There are four ‘key performance indicators’ (KPIs) that segment the process from submission to publication. These are outlined below.

KPI	Activity
1	Total process time (in days) from submission to publication
2	Time from submission to ‘soft’ accept (intention flagged to the authors)
3	Time for copy editing by the EiC. On completion, ‘hard’ accept
4	Time for pdf creation, review by authors, final proof edits by the EiC

The KPIs are reported for each issue of JIB together with a consolidated metric for 2023. The developments in the process (above) will impact on KPI 4 and the overall process time (KPI 1) in 2024.



Ambitions for 2024

In 2023, the *Journal* used OJS/PKP workflow to publish accepted manuscripts. However, the front end of the process (submission, peer review and decision) were provided by ScholarOne, Clarivate’s ‘submission management system’. During 2024, these process steps will be trialled within the OJS/PKP workflow with a view to switching to one integrated system.

Another big challenge is the transfer of legacy publications into the [archive](#). On this (new) site, this is currently limited to the volume of four issues published in 2023. The previous 128 volumes between 1895 and 2022 are lodged in the Wiley site. This situation is confusing for authors, readers and mighty frustrating for me! The Journal’s rich history needs to be in an integrated ‘one stop shop’ with all publications searchable and available to download.

The [Editorial Board](#) is ‘under construction’ and 2024 will see more folk to join it. The ambition is to involve them - based on their specialisms - in the early steps of the integrated process and to widen the net of decision making. Work is also ongoing on changing the visual appearance of the site with new ‘seasonal’ thumbnails for issues together with the imminent rebranding of the IBD as the Chartered Institute of Brewers and Distillers (CIBD).

To conclude

There are four papers in this issue, including two reviews, one on the impact of terroir on of barley and malt and the other on the production of Cachaça. The original articles consider the formation of staling aldehydes in grain bed layers in maltings and the spoilage of lager by draught beer microbiota. The papers are from Australia, Brazil, Belgium and the UK.

Cheers,

David Quain
Editor in Chief