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Review Article

Analysis of the Requests for Reprints of Review Article on Bone Shows a Lapse among Orthopedic Surgeons

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Abstract

It is axiomatic that review articles are worth their weight in gold! Moreover, it has been demonstrated that the reprint request (RR) is a tracer tool in scientific communications. Therefore, can requests made for a review article on bone be used to assess the research drive of orthopedic surgeons? The answer is the subject of this paper. Out of a total of the 76 requests, it was found that only one orthopedic surgeon made a request. Therefore, it is hypothesized that there is need for a positive drive towards improvement in this sphere of orthopedic learning. In particular, since the RR traffic is on the wane, the Internet should take its place not only among orthopedic surgeons but also among other professionals worldwide.

Keywords: *Review; Research; Bone; Surgeons; Reprints; Internet*

Introduction

Fraser [1] wrote on "Review articles–worth their weight in gold". Therefore, how weighs my Review of Batson's Vertebral Venous System [2]? In particular, as that Review covered several grounds of interest, how did Orthopedic Surgeons fare? This can be answered with the reprint request (RR) option. Moreover, I have shown elsewhere [3] that it performs a "tracer tool" function in Informatics. Some personal examples of such tracings are as varied as (i) the printer's devil [4], (ii) the brain drain [5], the Utilization of Request-A-Print [6], (iii) the analyzing of medicine [7], the information discordance on who "the elderly" is [8], and the cardiology citations [9].

Analysis of 76 RRs

What light did these throw on scientific communications? The answers may be sought along certain parameters as follows:

Clustering

This phenomenon was nicely described by Frame's associates [10] as the significant preponderance of data in distinct catchments. Thus, of the total 76 requests from all over the world, 47 (61.8%) clustered from USA. Similarly, among them, the largest number came from New York State. Furthermore, its own clustering featured in the 4 requests from the Memorial Hospital whereas the remaining 5 hospitals contributed but the individual request.

Departmental Data

Pathology took the lion's share with 18 requests, i.e., 23.7%. Both Medicine and unstated departments featured 9 times.

Thirty two departments appeared in the USA list that included a lone dispatch from the Division of Orthopedic Surgery, Stanford Medical Center, Stanford, California, USA. Interestingly, this lone status was shared by those requesting from as far apart as the Institute of Molecular Genetics, Czechoslovak Academy of Sciences, Czechoslovakia; Gameleya Institute for Epidemiology and Microbiology, Academy of Medical Sciences, Moscow, Russia; Department de Biologia Experimental, Institute de Biology, Unam, Mexico: Central Cancer Library,

Cancer Institute: Melbourne, Australia: Centre of Oncology, Sofia, Bulgaria: The Cham Sheba Medical Center, Tel Hashomer, Israel: and Instituto de Medicina Experimental, University of Central de Venezuela, Caracas, Venezuela, South America.

Discussion

It was really surprising that only one Orthopedic Surgeon featured in the above request cohort! What does this indicate? Since person to person contact is thought to increase the rate of publication [11], the Orthopedic Surgeons must be up and doing by increasing their RR contact as well as the rapidly growing Internet.

I am persuaded that this proposition works. Thus, I used the singular word, "uneventful" to confirm that the English Language is indubitably the lingua franca [12]. In fact, my tripartite arguments rested on (i) the case reports in the freely received Annals of Saudi Medicine, (ii) my mini-Library of reprints [13], and (iii) the Internet.

Conclusion

I would hypothesize that Orthopedic Surgeons have an open option, namely, not to occupy the low rung of any ladder of scientific communications. Formerly, the RR traffic sufficed [14]. Nowadays, the Internet is the answer [15]. Thus, interestingly, Morris [16] suggested that "collaborative research would best advance knowledge about the relative benefits of various managements and that statistical advice could make a substantial contribution". Indeed, Informatics should feature significantly [17].

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