Regular readers of the *Australian Journal of Physiotherapy* will have noticed a number of cosmetic changes made to the journal since it received its last major facelift at the beginning of 1999. Most of these changes have been designed to make the journal a more attractive “read”. But the real changes go more than skin deep. The Editorial Board has been implementing structural changes to the way that the journal is produced and disseminated, with the aim of ensuring that scientifically credible and clinically important information is delivered to as wide an audience as possible.

Overwhelmingly the most important recent achievement has been listing on the MEDLINE database. This was announced in an Editorial by the Chairman of the Editorial Board, Professor Mary Galea, in the September issue of the last volume. Already, as a consequence, we have seen an acceleration in the number and quality of submissions to the Journal. This has meant that we can now demand higher standards for publication – in other words, the bar has been raised. Currently, about 40% of papers submitted to the Journal survive peer review and are published. The increase in number and quality of papers submitted to the Journal will gradually manifest as an increase in the quality of published papers.

Now that the *Australian Journal of Physiotherapy* is listed on MEDLINE, authors can be confident that titles and abstracts of their work can be accessed by anyone in the world with Internet access. (MEDLINE is freely available on the Internet at www4.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/PubMed/). In addition, several mechanisms have been put in place to ensure that the full text of the Journal is made as widely available as possible. In a first for a physiotherapy journal, the *Australian Journal of Physiotherapy* has been made available electronically in full text on the journals@Ovid database. This means that institutions subscribing to the journals@Ovid database will be able to provide full text electronic access to the *Australian Journal of Physiotherapy* for their staff. The Editorial Board is also considering ways of making the Journal more widely available through document retrieval services. Lastly, we expect that an increase in availability of the Journal will flow naturally from an increase in quality - as quality increases, there will be pressure for more institutions to subscribe. Already, *Australian Journal of Physiotherapy* subscriptions have been increasing, contrary to international trends.

In parallel to electronic publication through journals@Ovid, individual subscribers are able to access the full text of the Journal through the Australian Physiotherapy Association (APA) website (http://www.physiotherapy.asn.au/AJP). For a short trial period, the Journal website has been made accessible to subscribers and non-subscribers alike. The site provides full text access to articles published since the beginning of the year 2000, and to abstracts of all articles published since the Journal was first published in 1954. The latter provides a fascinating historical record of physiotherapy practice in Australia.

Many subscribers are interested in obtaining the proceedings of the conferences run by the APA and its Special Groups. In the past, the cost of producing conference proceedings has prohibited wide distribution. The Editorial Board recently resolved to co-publish the AJP Electronic Supplement, with the aim of making proceedings of the APA’s international and national conferences more widely available. The Supplement will be laid out in the Journal style (see the Selected Abstracts of the National Paediatric Physiotherapy Group Conference in this issue for an example) and will be published on the APA website. APA groups interested in publishing their conference proceedings should contact the Scientific Editor.

Other changes are also making the *Australian Journal of Physiotherapy* a more attractive place for authors to publish their work. Importantly, the review process has been streamlined. The mean time from receipt of a manuscript to notification of a first decision (accept, revise or reject) for all papers submitted since the beginning of the year 2001 is 48 days, a figure which is excellent by comparison with similar journals. Contributors to the *Australian Journal of Physiotherapy* can expect timely review of their manuscripts.

To further speed up the review process the Editorial Board is planning to implement electronic submission and review.
Details on the electronic submission process will be provided in the Journal’s Guidelines to Authors (also available at the APA website) once the process of electronic submission is put in place. For those contributors who would prefer to use envelopes and stamps rather than modems and Internet servers, the traditional method of paper submission will remain an option, at least for the foreseeable future.

Observant readers will have noticed that one of the Critically Appraised Papers (CAPs) in the last issue of the Australian Journal of Physiotherapy was edited by Doctors Grö Jamtvedt and Kåre Birger Hagen from the Norwegian Directorate for Health and Social Welfare in Oslo, Norway. Grö and Kåre Birger will edit one CAP for each issue of the Australian Journal of Physiotherapy. Each of the CAPs published in the Australian Journal of Physiotherapy will be translated into Norwegian and published in Fysioterapeuten, the journal of the Norwegian Physiotherapy Association. This initiative will further enhance internationalisation of the journal. We look forward to a mutually beneficial collaboration with Grö and Kåre Birger, and with Vigdis Underland and Espen Mathisen, Editors of Fysioterapeuten.

The Editorial Board hopes that the Australian Journal of Physiotherapy will continue to evolve to meet the needs of readers. The Board invites feedback from readers on these recent initiatives.

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