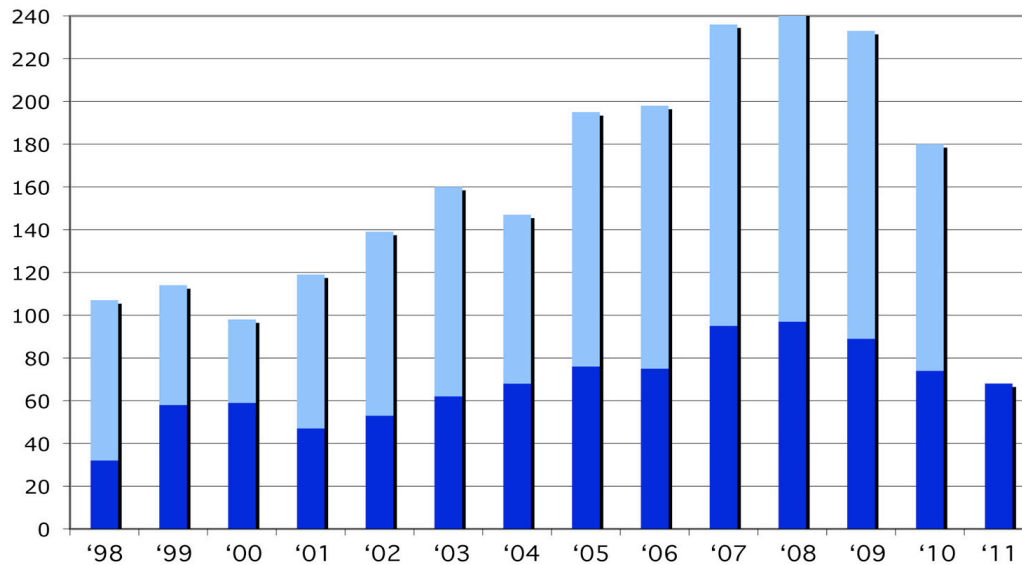


Number of submissions per year



The lower, darker color, portions of the bars show the number of submissions through May of each year. Each combined bar shows the total number of submissions in the year (not counting Book Reviews).

Number of papers published in 2010:

Regular Articles: 47 POVs: 9 Book Reviews: 11

Of the regular articles, 5 are from the SSB Symposium "Evolutionary Bangs and Whimpers: Methodological Advances and Conceptual Frameworks"

Number of papers submitted 1Jan2011 through 31May2011:

Regular Articles: 63 POVs: 5 Book Reviews: 8

As always, David Morrison is doing a great job procuring Book Reviews.

Increasing ratio of Regular Articles vs. POVs

year	Ratio RA/POV printed	Ratio RA/POV submitted
2008	3.93	4.88
2009	3.25	5.7
2010	9.40	5.63
2011		12.6

There's a trend (based on a small data set) that when our submission rate began to decrease, the rate of submission of publishable POVs decreased faster than Regular Articles. Authors may expect POVs to move more quickly than regular articles, and in many cases POVs probably could. We could consider giving some level of priority to

POVs rather than processing manuscripts strictly in order, with POVs sometimes behind complex papers with many author errors, missing or problematic files, etc. (I just noticed this small trend in the data and haven't discussed it with Ron yet, so no change in procedure is in the works. I included it here in case it's of interest.)

Page Budget:

We currently publish 11 papers per issue (not counting book reviews). We could increase the number of papers to 12. There is some buffer before this would be affected by the decreased submission rate because many papers are in review or awaiting revision or resubmission by authors. Depending on how long it takes to increase submission rate, 12 papers/issue may be sustainable. I'd have to monitor the expected upcoming number of papers several months ahead of copy due dates.

We'll continue to publish papers online independent of the print schedule. We'll process papers as quickly as possible, which gives OUP significantly more papers than are needed on copy due dates. They publish such papers through advanced access.

LaTeX templates and submissions:

A LaTeX template (defined as preamble plus example text), a typeset pdf of the template output, and a bibliographic style file are now available at <http://systbio.org/?q=node/63>. These files will also be available directly from Manuscript Central, under the "Instructions and Forms" link at the upper right of each MC page.

Systematic Biology is now a LaTeX-friendly publication, based on the templates and on my ability to help authors with .tex files. This is likely to bring in more submissions, particularly papers that depend on complex maths. There may also be a synergy between our LaTeX status and the new manuscript category Software for Systematics and Evolution. We may want to consider publicizing the availability of the LaTeX templates and the new manuscript category, separately and/or together, which may result in an even greater number of submissions.

Dryad:

Submission of data files or other online-only materials associated with SB papers is now required to go through Dryad at <http://datadryad.org>. The system is up and running, including the capacity for dual phases of data submission. Initial upload of online material to Dryad is required at the time of the submission of a manuscript through Manuscript Central. At this point the data are not publically available. I'll receive an access key which I can then provide to the EiC, AE and reviewers. If/when the paper is published, a curator will check the files and then make them publically available.

We could extend this requirement to include papers that have already been submitted, but not yet received final acceptance. Authors are required to agree to a Creative Commons Zero waiver. One of Dryad's stated goals is similar to a topic we've discussed: "Authors should ideally submit sufficient data and metadata (i.e., documentation or descriptive information about the data) such that another researcher would be able to evaluate and reproduce the findings described in the publication."

In July I'll attend the Dryad Board Meeting in Vancouver (at no cost to SSB). The variety of topics listed for discussion includes many ideas that will be important for us. I've gained enough knowledge of Dryad and how it works to be an effective SSB representative. Before the board meeting, I plan to consult with Rod Page about any information or projects he considers particularly relevant and important.

Free Subscriptions for Associate Editors:

Item for discussion: making this a free membership (at no added cost over the subscriptions provided).

SSB Logo:

Brief note: When reduced in size, the text isn't as clear as might be best. I suggest we make the text bold.