

Editorial

Five years has passed since the first volume of *Bioarchaeology of the Near East* was published making this the opportune moment to review the journal's strong and weak points. Forty eight texts were published in the first six volumes including three general review papers, nine research papers, two technical notes, twenty eight short fieldwork reports and six book reviews. This was the minimum necessary to maintain the journal's survival (with a difficult time in 2008/2009 when the number of successful submissions was extremely small), but a progress in manuscript flow is evident and there is hope that in the future the number of peer reviewed papers will be higher than two/three per volume. If only research papers are counted, the acceptance rate for all published volumes is 45%.

In spite of the small number of papers and permanent delay in issuing new volumes before the present one, the journal has good visibility. First of all, full text versions are available online and are linked by 39 web pages, including Wikipedia. In addition, the Page rank of our website is 5 which allows it to appear on the first page in many Google queries, including "bioarchaeology". The journal is also indexed by Scopus, Google Scholar and Index Copernicus and catalogued by many libraries. Our website is visited 2200 times per year on average, excluding access through indexing services and pirate servers, and many papers were downloaded more than 500 times. About 20% of direct visits came from Near Eastern countries.

Although the journal includes a small number of published papers, these papers are cited quite often. Publish or Perish (based on Google Scholar) counts 50 citations of papers published between 2007 and 2010; the h-index is 4 per eight regular papers. In ISI Web of Science 15 quotations are noted and if a 2011 5-year Impact Factor would be calculated for *Bioarchaeology of the Near East* it would be as high as 0.750 (although it must be kept in mind that in small journals this figure may be very variable from year to year). The 2011 SCImago Journal Rank based on Scopus data is 0.102, which places the journal at 62/96 position in Archaeology and 93/116 in Anthropology.

Although only numbers, these data show the potential of our journal. It appears, however, as though the scope of *Bioarchaeology of the Near East* was defined in too narrow a way to secure the minimum number of required manuscripts to maintain the journal's viability. In spite of a joint effort between editors and reviewers to improve submitted papers in terms of content and language, the journal gained only limited success in stimulating and canalizing research on Near Eastern human remains. Although it is possible that more time is necessary to attract more potential authors in such a dispersed area of research, the editors feel as though it is time for a new editorial strategy. From the present volume on, *Bioarchaeology of the Near East* will publish a variety of papers (including short fieldwork reports) not only on human osteology, but

also on animal osteology, archaeobotany, and environmental archaeology, all of which from the broadly defined Near East (from Greece and Egypt in the west to India in the east, from Caucasus and Central Asia in the north to the Sudan in the south). Still papers integrating all kinds of research on biological remains at archaeological sites will be most appreciated (especially when combined with historical sources), but we will be more open to submissions of site-oriented reports and case studies.

The publication of *Bioarchaeology of the Near East* during past five years was possible only as a joint effort by many people. First of all, many thanks are due to Mindy Pitre for her great effort to make all papers as clear and readable as possible. We received great support from the members of the Editorial Board and from the reviewers who often substantially improved submitted papers. I am also grateful to Basia Sołtysiak who patiently and carefully did the layout and technical editing for the first volumes of the journal. To shorten the time between decision and publication online, starting from this volume all papers will be processed using X_YT_EX. This change will cause some modifications to the journal's layout and typesetting, but hopefully these changes will be accepted by the readers. Following the Open Access character of the journal, all of its context will be available under Creative Commons BY-ND 3.0 licence.

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Editor