



EDITORIAL

REPORT ON THE PRESENT STATE OF
PERSONALITY AND INDIVIDUAL DIFFERENCES

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The journal of ISSID is now in its 15th year. The Editors make a report on the journal at the General Meeting that takes place every other year, and it seemed timely to make our report to this year's Warsaw meeting public, to tell members, contributors and general readers just where we are, and provide them with material to extrapolate our progress. The journal was founded to provide an *international* forum for an aspect of psychology at the time held in little esteem, due to the combined effects of behaviouristic doctrine, which disregards concepts of individual differences, Mischel's doctrinaire and factually incorrect attacks, and political correctness which frowns on the whole notion of individual differences as elitist and non-egalitarian. How has it fulfilled this function?

Figure 1 shows the geographical distribution of publication for Vols 14–17, and Vol. 18, Nos 1 and 2. Out of a total of 501 papers, the majority clearly comes from the U.S.A., with England, Canada and Australia the next in line. Thus the importance of the English language seems to be indisputable, and clearly the problem of writing in a foreign language has diverted many relevant papers to publication in other languages. Nevertheless, 33 different countries are represented among our authors; that surely testifies to at least partial success in our endeavours to create an international journal. These numbers gain in meaningfulness when we compare *Personality and Individual Differences* with other journals, such as the *Journal of Personality and Social Psychology*, the *Journal of Personality*, the *Journal of Social Behavior and Personality*, the *Journal of Research in Personality*, etc. Looking at 100 paper sequences in these and many other American and British journals, we found U.S.A. and Canadian authors making up 92–98% of the nationalities represented, with an occasional German, Dutch, Israeli or Japanese authorship. However, many of these authors were American spending some time abroad, or natives of these countries who had worked in the U.S.A., Canada, or Great Britain. Thus *Personality and Individual Differences* is much the most international journal of all those investigated.

Institutional and membership distribution by country is also rather uneven, but less so than authorship. Figure 2 shows membership subscriptions by territory over the past six years, and Fig. 3 shows institutional subscriptions by territory over the past six years. If we add the U.K. to Europe, something that would be fiercely disputed by Eurosceptics in Great Britain, Europe would exceed the American contribution for membership, if not for institutional subscriptions.

There has been a growth in institutional subscriptions over the years, as shown in Fig. 4, roughly fourfold from 1980 to 1994. This seems to have come to an end, and we would appeal to all members and readers to try and persuade their libraries to take the journal if they do not do so already. Similarly, such persuasion might with advantage be tried on psychologists interested in personality and individual differences, but not yet members. The influence of a journal is in part determined by the number of libraries that take it, and the number of readers who buy the journal.

There is of course also a more objective measure of the influence a journal has in a given field, namely the *impact factor*. This is determined by noting how frequently articles in a journal are quoted in the literature, divided by the number of articles published. Such a measure favours journals like the *Journal of Personality and Social Psychology*, which publishes only a few

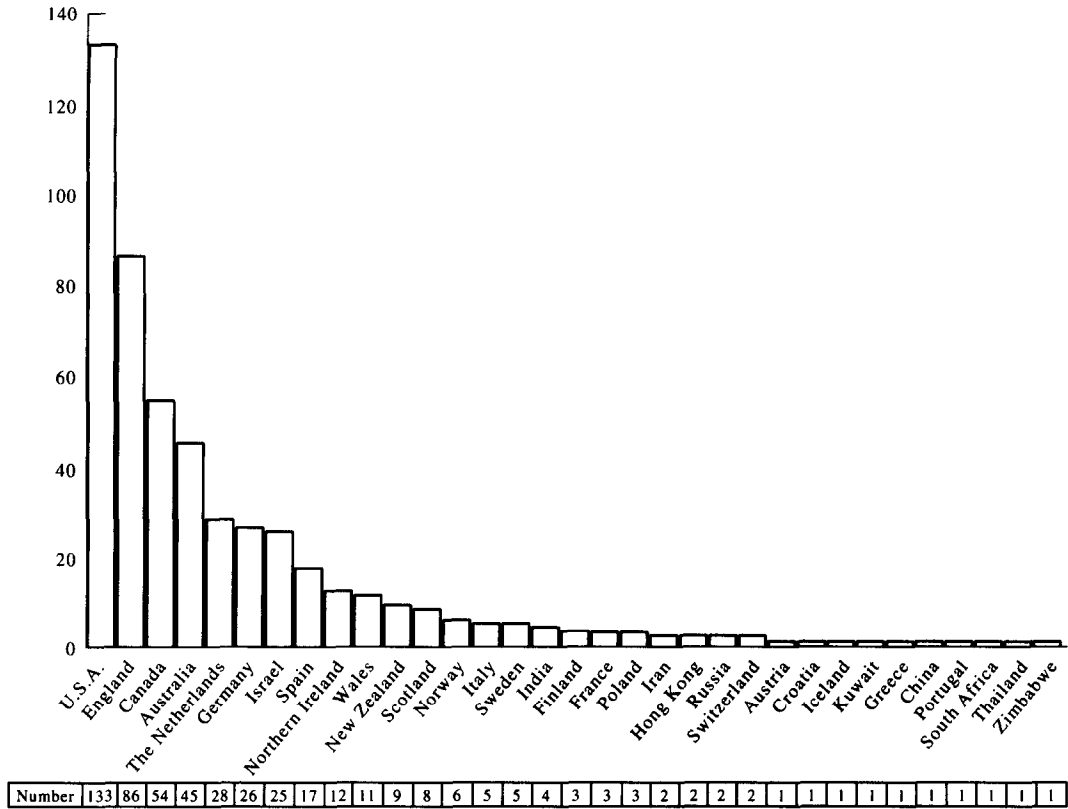


Fig. 1. *Personality and Individual Differences*: geographical distribution of authors for Vols 14–17 and Vol. 18, Nos 1 and 2.

long and heavy-weight papers, over journals like *Personality and Individual Differences*, which also publishes many short papers in a special section. Figure 5 shows our record over the past seven years; it runs at an average of about 0.8, with a figure just about 1.00 in 1993. This is a very reputable figure, which may be compared with other, comparable journals in this field. Ratton, Levin and Foos (1993) have published similar figures for other journals in the section of Social-Personality of their article; we have reproduced the most relevant in Table 1, together with some figures from related fields.

None of these journals, of course, compare with the *APA Journal of Personality and Social Psychology*, for reasons already mentioned, and also because it is the official journal of the American Psychological Association. Nevertheless, it is clear that *Personality and Individual Differences* has carved out for itself a niche that is comparable with, or superior to that of other journals in the same area. Articles published in *Personality and Individual Differences* are not likely to be forgotten or left unnoticed; the journal, particularly now that it is completely refereed, is among the leaders in the personality and individual differences area. It does differ from journals such as the *Journal of Personality and Social Psychology* by being less social and more biological; the APA journal only allows personality one-third of its space, and even that is often taken up by articles that belong more to the social psychology than the personality section. Also work on intelligence is hardly represented there, while it forms an important aspect of *Personality and Individual Differences*. The same is true of genetic and biological studies; they appear with much greater frequency in *Personality and Individual Differences*. This suggests that our definition of the general field of personality and individual differences is much broader than that of the *Journal of Personality and Social Psychology*, and interprets it somewhat differently.

There is an inexorable march upwards in the number of pages annually printed for *Personality and Individual Differences*. Starting with 384 pages in 1980, successive years ran to 356, 474,

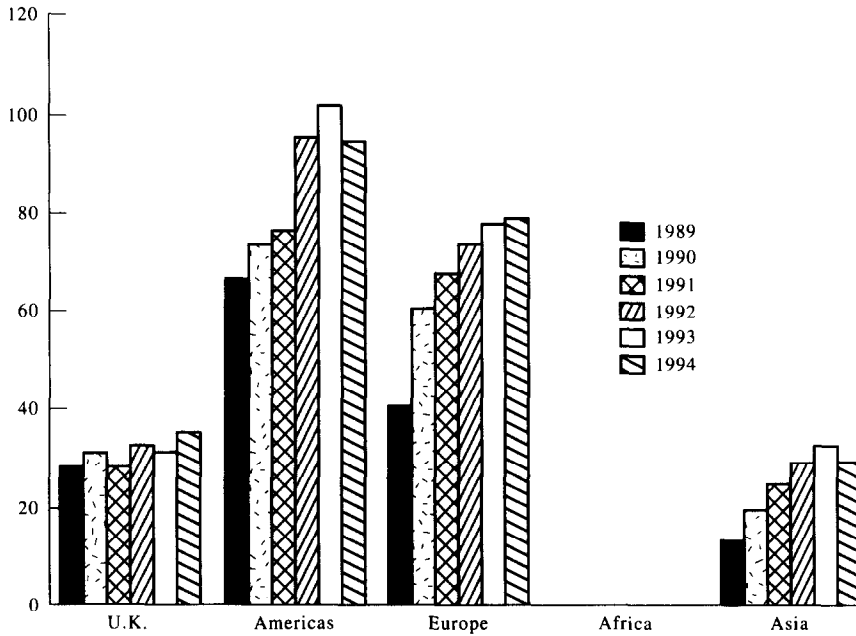


Fig. 2. *Personality and Individual Differences*: membership subscriptions by territory.

722, 766, 786, 920, 986, 1042, 1328, 1310, 1362, 1360, 1602, and finally 1856 last year. There must be an upper limit, and something about 2,000 may be it—if only because the editors are only fallible human beings, and do have other things to do besides editing *Personality and Individual Differences*! Our original worries about getting enough good articles regularly to fill an entire journal have certainly been proved idle; to keep the bubble from bursting we still have to reject papers that are certainly worth printing, and are often printed in other journals after rejection. We are not complaining, of course; to edit a journal like *Personality and Individual*



Fig. 3. *Personality and Individual Differences*: institutional subscriptions by territory.

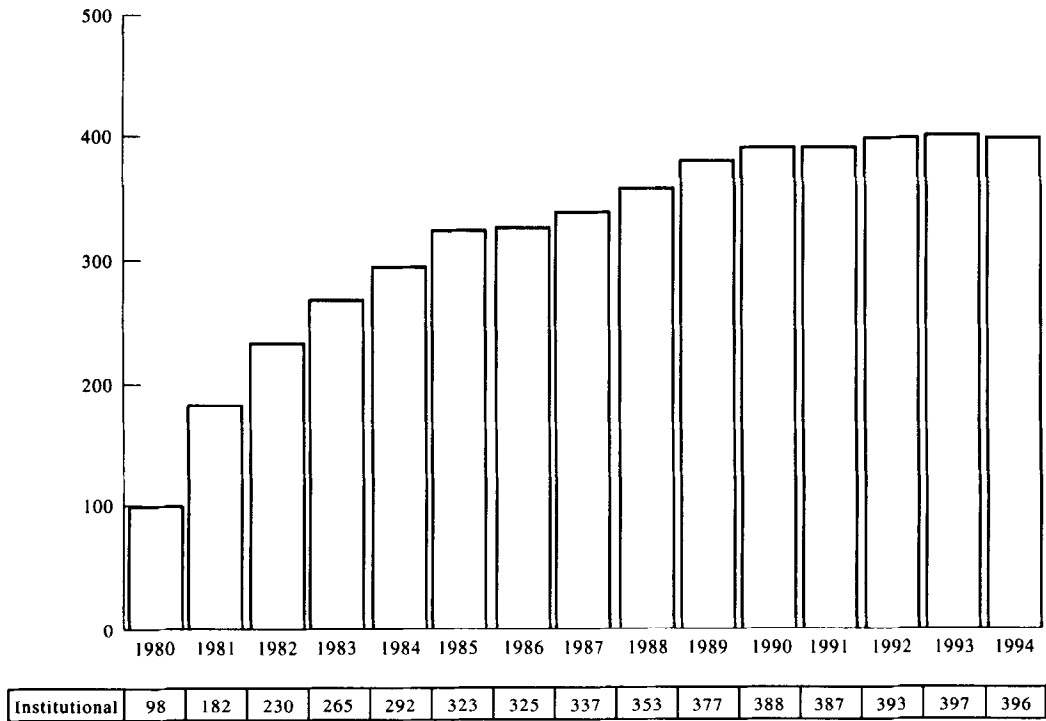


Fig. 4. *Personality and Individual Differences*: institutional subscriptions (1980–1994).

Differences is a privileged position, and one cannot refuse to keep up with developments as long as they come in by the post every day of the week!

In summary, *Personality and Individual Differences* is alive and well, increasing in volume, number of individual and institutional subscriptions, and impact. It is perhaps the most international

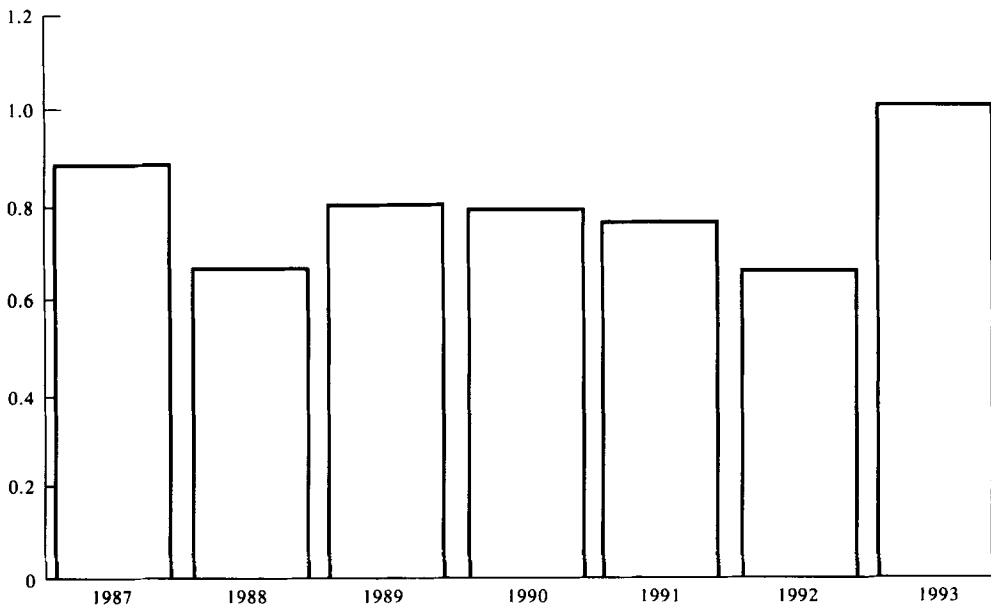


Fig. 5. *Personality and Individual Differences*: impact factors

Table 1. Impact factors of various personality and assessment journals
(Ratton *et al.*, 1993)

Journal	Citation impact
<i>Journal of Personality</i>	0.87
<i>Personality and Social Psychology Bulletin</i>	0.78
<i>Journal of Research in Personality</i>	0.60
<i>Journal of Personality Assessment</i>	0.50
<i>European Journal of Social Psychology</i>	0.68
<i>Social Behaviour and Personality</i>	0.14
<i>Journal of Applied Social Psychology</i>	0.64
<i>Basic and Applied Social Psychology</i>	0.52
<i>Multivariate Behavioral Research</i>	0.73
<i>Evaluational and Psychological Measurement</i>	0.29
<i>Applied Psychological Measurement</i>	0.56
<i>Psychological Research</i>	0.48

psychological journal in existence, with 33 nationalities represented among its authors recently. Suggestions for improvement will always be welcome, and finally we wish to thank our referees for the sterling work they have been doing to keep up the quality of the articles appearing in *Personality and Individual Differences*.

REFERENCE

Ratton, J., Levitt, M. & Foos, P. (1993). Citation impact, rejection rates, and journal value. *American Psychologist*, 48, 911-912.

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