

Canadian Counsellor
 Conseiller Canadien
 1982, Vol. 16, No. 4, 198-200

EDITORIAL

The *Canadian Counsellor*: Annual Report 1981-1982*

Florent Dumont

*Associate Editor
 McGill University*

At the end of my first year as Editor of this journal, it would seem appropriate that I make a report to our readers. I would like to review the work that has been done this year and draw some conclusions relative to it. Further, I wish in this statement to propose some new ideas for the coming year and to express, finally, my gratitude to my collaborators.

Quantitative information

In the first instance I wish to provide some statistical data which, in some ways, will provide a reflection of the administration of the journal from June 1981 to May 1982, a period which covers the four issues of Volume 16. These data will be of interest, we trust, not only to our readers but also to future contributors to this journal.

As is evident in Table 1, a total of seventy-five (75) manuscripts were considered in this period. Of that number five (5) were rejected without being refereed by reason of the evident unsuitability of their content for the journal. On the other hand, a goodly number of manuscripts was returned to their authors due to a variety of inadequacies, for example, flagrant violation of numerous (APA) publication regulations, insufficient number of copies, incomplete references. Of these, six were never resubmitted by their authors.

Two articles which I would characterize as *policy papers* (Lecomte, Dumont, & Zingle, 1981; Peavy, Robertson, & Westwood, 1982), and their translation and adaptation into

French (Perron, 1981, 1982), were published following an evaluation by the Editorial Board alone. Another 60 manuscripts were submitted to referees for evaluation.

TABLE 1

Manuscripts submitted and processed in
 1981-1982

Manuscripts	N
Received: total	75
Refused: not refereed	5
Inadequate: not resubmitted	6
Policy papers	4
Refereed	60

Aside from the policy articles referred to above, 26 out of 71 manuscripts were published. This constitutes an acceptance rate of 37%. If we rely on the data furnished by Buffardi and Nichols (1981), this acceptance rate approximates that of the following journals: *Adolescence* (30%), *Journal of Clinical Psychology* (35%), and *Journal of Occupational Psychology* (37%). However, it is higher than that of the *Journal of Counseling Psychology* (21%), the *Canadian Journal of Psychology* (25%), and the *Journal of Educational Psychology* (26%).

We can interpret this acceptance rate for the *Canadian Counsellor* in various ways. On the one hand, we could rejoice in the low percentage of "acceptances" as suggesting that the journal has rigorous standards. On the other hand we could be equally disquieted by the small number of published articles, for the absolute number of submitted manuscripts is certainly not comparable to that of American

* This article is a translation and an adaptation of "Le Conseiller Canadien: bilan 1981-1982" written by Jacques Perron.

Editorial

journals with acceptance rates that are similar to our own. Such a state of affairs would even have the potential to increase the number of grey hairs on the Editor's head — for, more than once, he thought he would run short of articles.

Let us turn, for the moment, to the reasons for which we have felt compelled to reject certain manuscripts. Since the new Editorial Board has been installed, 19 manuscripts have been evaluated with the aid of the old forms, 23 with the aid of the new, and 22 with both.

TABLE 2

Forms used for Referee's Reports

Form	N
Old	19
New	23
Old and new	22

As is evident from the results registered in Tables 3, 4, and 5, when the referees recommend the rejection of a manuscript, it is because it is perceived as having significant deficits. More specifically, the reasons most often adduced relate to literature citations (inadequate = 28^o/o), soundness of research design (inadequate = 21^o/o), or the quality of the discussion (inadequate = 33^o/o).

TABLE 3

Global evaluation of manuscripts (old form)

Category	N	o/o
An outstanding contribution	1	2
Acceptable; not outstanding	15	29
Conditionally recommended	12	23
Not acceptable	23	44
Better published elsewhere	1	2

TABLE 4

Global evaluation of manuscripts (new form)

Category	N	o/o
Acceptable: high priority for publication	13	19
Acceptable: low priority for publication	15	21
Conditionally acceptable	24	34
Not acceptable	15	21
Better published elsewhere	3	4

Table 5

Detailed evaluation of manuscripts (new form)

Category	Excellent		Good		Satisfactory		Inadequate		Not applicable		Total
	N	o/o	N	o/o	N	o/o	N	o/o	N	o/o	
Relevance	24	34	28	40	14	20	3	4	1	1	70
Style	16	23	30	44	13	19	9	13	1	1	69
Logic	15	21	28	40	15	21	12	17	0	0	70
Originality	25	37	24	35	12	18	7	10	0	0	68
Cited literature	9	13	27	38	14	20	20	28	1	1	71
Design	0	0	14	21	10	15	14	21	29	43	67
Discussion	6	9	25	36	16	23	23	33	0	0	70

Relative to "type of manuscript", the data in Table 6 show that 26 (that is, 40^o/o) of the manuscripts submitted were based on original statistical data, while 39 (that is, 60^o/o) were of a theoretical nature. However, in terms of publication, 50^o/o of the articles fall into each of the two categories.

Table 6

Character of manuscripts received and published

	Experimental		Non experimental		Total
	N	o/o	N	o/o	
Received	26	40	39	60	65
Published	13	50	13	50	26

Finally, with regard to the language in which an article has been published, 30^o/o of the pages of Volume 16 are in French, whereas on an average for the four preceding volumes, the percentage in French was 10^o/o (Volume 12 = 11^o/o; Volume 13 = 4^o/o; Volume 14 = 7^o/o; Volume 15 = 20^o/o). We have thereby achieved one of the objectives that were proposed to us last year: to increase the French portion of the *Canadian Counsellor*.

Innovations

During the past year we introduced two new genres of articles in the journal. I refer to the "Brief Reports" and to the "Research Projects". They still do not have the amplitude and visibility we would like them to have. We would like to publish an increasing number of such manuscripts and so we strongly invite you to submit such contributions.

On another tack, the Editorial Board has decided to solicit an annual "survey article" resembling in some respects major articles that appear periodically in the *Journal of Counseling Psychology* and the *Journal of Vocational Behavior* in the form of monographs or annual literature reviews. Beginning with our 1983 July issue we will present a synthesis

F. Dumont

of Canadian studies in counselling and guidance which have been published in the preceding year. For the benefit of all the readers of the journal this article will be published in both English and French.

Acknowledgements

I would like, finally, to give public recognition to several persons who have been especially helpful to me: first, those collaborators who have worked most closely with me, Noëlla Laferrière (Managing Editor), Dominique Spahn (Secretary), Florent Dumont (Associate Editor, English section), Conrad Lecomte (Associate Editor, French section), Vance Peavy (Book review Editor, English section), and Réal Allard (Book review Editor, French section). Without the professional, and at times personal, support they have given me, I would doubtless not have been able to discharge my responsibilities. I wish, further, to extend my thanks to the Board of the C.G.C.A., in particular, to the President, Stuart Conger and the Treasurer, Art Monsebraaten, as well as to the members of the Board for having provided me with the financial support as well as the broad discretionary power which enabled me to produce

the journal with those modifications that we judged to be useful. Furthermore, I cannot neglect to mention the high quality of the reports which we have asked our other manuscript referees to furnish us. Finally I acknowledge the productive participation of those numerous authors who have submitted manuscripts. I can only interpret their submissions of manuscript as signs of the credibility and reputation of the journal.

References

- Buffardi, L.C., & Nichols, J. A. Citation impact acceptance rate, and APA journals. *American Psychologist*, 1981, *36*, 1453-1456.
- Lecomte, C., Dumont, F., & Zingle, H.W. Research in counselling psychology: Changing emphases in a Canadian perspective. *Canadian Counsellor*, 1981, *16*, 9-20.
- Peavy, V., Robertson, S., & Westwood, M. Guidelines for counsellor education in Canada. *Canadian Counsellor*, 1982, *16*, 135-143.
- Perron, J. La recherche en psychologie du counselling: réévaluation dans une perspective canadienne. *Conseiller Canadien*, 1981, *16*, 21-33.
- Perron, J. Jalons pour la formation des conseillers au Canada. *Conseiller Canadien*, 1982, *16*, 144-152.