

## The Current Position of Archives of Plastic Surgery and Its Future

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The Korean Society of Plastic and Reconstructive Surgeons (KSPRS) was founded in 1966. With 2,112 members, it is the third largest society of its kind, following those of the United States and Brazil. Based on this institutional foundation, advances in surgical techniques have led Korean plastic surgery to a position of international prominence [1]. The publication output of Korean plastic surgeons over the last 10 years has shown a remarkable growth in terms of quantity and quality. Currently, Korea is among the top six countries in representative plastic surgery journals [2].

*Archives of Plastic Surgery* (*Arch Plast Surg*, APS) is the official journal of the KSPRS. It was first published as *Journal of the Korean Society of Plastic and Reconstructive Surgeons* in 1974, and its name was changed to *Archives of Plastic Surgery* with the institution of an English-only policy in 2012 [3-5]. Along with this transition, the journal was converted to open access, allowing readers to view or download the full text of all journal content without a subscription. In order to ensure the convenient online searchability of APS articles, the journal is indexed, tracked, and covered internationally by representative databases, such as PubMed, PubMed Central, CrossRef, Scopus, Embase, and Google Scholar. The rapid sharing of new knowledge is possible through these various distribution channels.

APS is a peer-reviewed journal that publishes articles in all fields of plastic and reconstructive surgery, including aesthetic surgery, microsurgery, craniofacial surgery, hand surgery, burns, wound healing, and basic research related to all areas of plastic surgery. It publishes various forms of papers, including editorials, review articles, original articles, topics, case reports, ideas and innovations, letters, images, book reviews, pieces on continuing medi-

cal education, discussion articles, and short communications. The international outreach effort of APS has resulted in an increasing number of international submissions over the past three years. From January 2012 to May 2015, 980 submissions were received from 42 countries (Fig. 1). Of these submissions, 155 pieces were submitted from 15 Asian countries outside of Korea. This increase in international submissions was accompanied by an increase in the number of countries from which these manuscripts originated. Especially in aesthetic plastic surgery and some other subspecialties of plastic surgery, surgical concepts and technical approaches differ depending on the racial and ethnic background of the patient. APS contains material that is distinctive in terms of regional, cultural, and racial representation as well as presenting novel surgical concepts and technical approaches that can be applied to ongoing research. The editors hope to expand the accessibility of the material presented in APS to regions beyond South Korea and other Asian countries, and are therefore working to register APS in the Science Citation Index Expanded (SCIE) [6]. It is not easy for a plastic surgery journal to be indexed in SCIE, and no plastic surgery journals from the Asia-Pacific area are currently indexed therein (Table 1) [1,7,8].

The next step for APS to continue to enhance its prestige is for it to be indexed in SCIE, which would require APS to meet the corresponding standards. Academic journals are evaluated for inclusion in SCIE based on on-time publication, peer review, research and publication ethics, the frequency of publication, the history of the journal, its record in national or international databases, the academic achievements of the editorial board, the consistent long-term presence of editors and editorial staff mem-

Fig. 1. Manuscript submissions to *Archives of Plastic Surgery* by country from January 2012 to May 2015

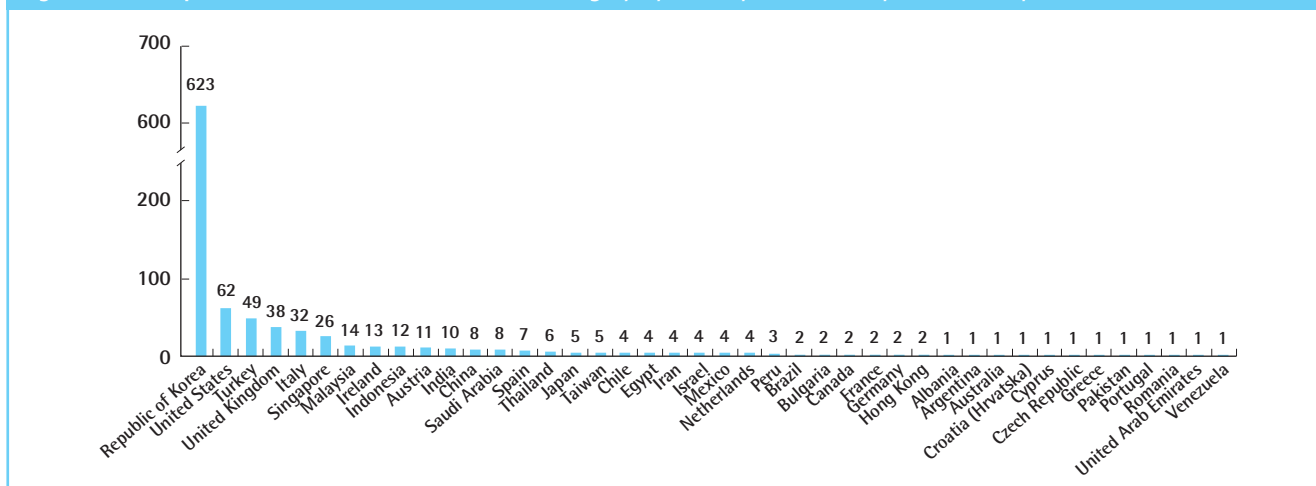


Table 1. SCIE journals in the field of plastic surgery with content comparable to that of *Archives of Plastic Surgery* [1,7,8]

Title	Frequency of publication	ISSN	Publisher	Nation	Impact factor (2013)
<i>Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery</i>	Monthly	0032-1052	Lippincott Williams & Wilkins	USA	3.328
<i>Aesthetic Surgery Journal</i>	Bimonthly	1090-820X	Oxford Univ Press Inc.	USA	2.034
<i>Journal of Plastic, Reconstructive &amp; Aesthetic Surgery</i>	Monthly	1748-6815	Elsevier Sci Ltd.	UK	1.474
<i>Annals of Plastic Surgery</i>	Monthly	0148-7043	Lippincott Williams & Wilkins	USA	1.458
<i>Clinics in Plastic Surgery</i>	Quarterly	0094-1298	W B Saunders Co-Elsevier Inc.	USA	1.350
<i>Aesthetic Plastic Surgery</i>	Bimonthly	0364-216X	Springer	USA	1.189
<i>Facial Plastic Surgery Clinics of North America</i>	Quarterly	1064-7406	W B Saunders Co-Elsevier Inc.	USA	1.177
<i>Facial Plastic Surgery</i>	Bimonthly	0736-9303	Thieme Medical Publ Inc.	USA	0.992
<i>Ophthalmic Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery</i>	Bimonthly	0740-9303	Lippincott Williams & Wilkins	USA	0.914
<i>Journal of Craniofacial Surgery</i>	Bimonthly	1049-2275	Lippincott Williams & Wilkins	USA	0.676
<i>Journal of Plastic Surgery and Hand Surgery</i>	Bimonthly	2000-656X	Informa Healthcare	Sweden	0.521
<i>Canadian Journal of Plastic Surgery</i>	Quarterly	1195-2199	Pulsus Group Inc.	Canada	0.274
<i>JAMA Facial Plastic Surgery</i>	Bimonthly	2168-6076	American Medical Association	USA	

SCIE, Science Citation Index Expanded; ISSN, international standard serial number.

bers, the international distribution of the contributors, the staff of the editing office, the status of the online submission system, the acceptance rate, the presence of concrete guidelines for submissions, journal editing, errors in citations, errors in the references, the use of digital object identifiers and full-text XML, open-access status, the online accessibility of the journal, and the originality and value of the content of the journal (as assessed by metrics such as citation rates). International academic journals are evaluated based on the editorial board, the international distribution of the contributors, academic originality, and citations of the journal (Table 2) [9].

APS, which is published six times annually (on the 15th of January, March, May, July, September, and November), meets the standards of on-time publication and frequency of publication. APS holds high ethical standards involving research and publication. In order to ensure that papers are of high quality, re-

submission is prohibited, and plagiarism is prevented *via* the CrossCheck reference program. Written permission is required for photographs of patients. In addition, figures and illustrations are formatted consistently throughout the journal in order to reduce errors in journal editing [10]. Peer review plays a critical role in the status of APS as a medical journal [5]. APS draws upon approximately 190 experts as peer reviewers. Korean peer reviewers are required to have at least five years of specialist clinical experience and to be leading specialists in training hospitals. APS also continues to invite competent reviewers from all over the world, and the editorial board provides reviewers with guidelines for manuscript reviews, with the goal of ensuring high-quality reviews. The citations and references of submissions to APS are carefully checked before publishing, and all errors are removed. All papers submitted to APS must be checked for the appropriate use of English. If the English of the paper is not sufficient-

Table 2. Evaluation items according to institutes or databases [9]

Evaluation items	Korean institutes			International databases		
	KOFST	NRF	KAMJE	MEDLINE	SCI	Scopus
On-time publication	√	√	√	√	√	√
Peer review	√	√	√	√	√	√
Research and publication ethics	√	√	√	√	√	√
Frequency of publication	√	√				
History of the journal	√	√		√		
Record in domestic or international databases	√		√	√		
Academic achievements of the editorial board		√			√	√
Consistent long-term editors and editorial staff members	√	√	√			
International distribution of the contributors		√			√	√
Staff of the editing office	√		√			
Online submission system status	√	√	√			
Acceptance rate		√	√	√		
Presence of concrete guidelines for contributions	√	√	√	√	√	√
Errors in journal editing and citations	√	√	√	√	√	√
Errors in references	√	√	√	√	√	√
Use of DOIs	√	√	√			
Existence of full-text XML	√					
Open-access status	√		√			
Online accessibility	√	√	√		√	√
Originality and value of the content			√	√	√	√

KOFST, the Korean Federation of Science and Technology Societies; NRF, National Research Foundation of Korea; KAMJE, Korean Association of Medical Journal Editors; SCI, Science Citation Index; DOI, digital object identifier; XML, extensible markup language.

ly fluent, the authors are recommended to have the text revised by a professional English proofreading company and to resubmit the paper. Papers are then checked for plagiarism by a similarity test and are then assessed by three to four peer reviewers, in a review process that includes statistical verification. When consent is given for a paper to be published, it goes through another stage of English proofreading, and is then published after the author's final revisions and the preparation of the final manuscript.

APS is currently implementing several initiatives with the goal of being indexed in SCIE, such as adopting an English-only policy, ensuring easier online accessibility by registering with representative databases, soliciting submissions from various countries, extending its scope beyond the Asia-Pacific region, developing an organized submission and editing system, and improving the journal's academic status by attracting high-quality papers. If APS maintains continuous quality control to preserve its role as a leading forum for plastic surgery in the Asia-Pacific region, it will also contribute to the global development of plastic surgery, and will obtain worldwide recognition as a leading journal.

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