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Journal of Gambling Issues: The First Decade and Onward

Sherry StewartRole: Incoming Editor-in-Chief

This 24th issue represents the 10th anniversary of the *JGI* (formerly *e-Gambling: The Electronic Journal of Gambling Issues*). Anniversaries are times to reflect on the past, to celebrate accomplishments, and to look ahead toward the future. This 10th anniversary of the journal coincides with the launching of the Problem Gambling Institute of Ontario at the Centre for Addiction and Mental Health (PGIO, 2010). I am very enthusiastic about assuming the role of editor-in-chief of the *JGI* at this exciting time in the journal's history. I feel very privileged to inherit this role from two outstanding predecessors – Phil Lange, founding editor-in-chief, who established the *JGI*'s very high standard of ethical publishing in the gambling field, and Daryl Boshart, who maintained this high standard since assuming the role of editor in 2008. I also feel extremely fortunate to have Daryl continuing at my side in the role of managing editor as I assume the challenges of my new position.

JGI was originally developed to provide a forum for clinicians, researchers, gamblers, the gambling industry, and the public to carry on dialogue about such important issues as what constitutes responsible gambling, gambling as a social phenomenon, and evidence-based treatments for problem gamblers ([Garfinkel, 2000](#)). Guided by a highly-dedicated core Editorial Board, and later an additional international advisory panel, the journal has been committed to disseminating knowledge about gambling to as wide a public as possible; from the outset, the journal ensured accessibility through electronic publishing on the internet. Like the other gambling journals, the *JGI* has published feature articles and research papers on a wide variety of topics in the area of gambling studies, as well as letters to the editor and policy pieces. Many of the feature articles have been written by world-renowned experts in the gambling field – Blaszczynski, Derevensky, Peele, Korn, Griffiths, and Volberg, to name a few. What makes the *JGI* unique is the combined focus on high quality scientific contributions balanced against contributions from other perspectives such as the *clinic* section (offering up-to-date treatment information), the *first person accounts* (providing the opportunity to learn

from the stories of those whose lives have been impacted by gambling), *reviews* (critical reviews of books on various gambling-related topics), and *service profiles* (where gambling programs describe the distinguishing attributes of the services they provide). A survey of the *JGI* readership ([Lange, 2002](#)) indicated that the audience was particularly appreciative of the range of articles in the journal written both by experts and by “everyday people”, the high quality of the articles, as well as the journal's ready accessibility. We plan to maintain these strengths of the *JGI* as we move forward into our second decade.

We have recently completed a survey of the types of articles published in the journal over the last 12 issues. We utilized seven broad categories in classifying the published articles: psychosocial, clinical, epidemiological, special populations, policy, pre-clinical, and “other”. The latter category was reserved for articles not readily classifiable into any of the other categories and included topics such as advertising, religion, organized crime, and film. The results are displayed in [Figure 1](#). These results were presented to the Editorial Board at our last meeting in January, 2010, for discussion and planning. The board felt that these statistics demonstrate that the *JGI* has developed a solid niche in publishing in the psychosocial, clinical, and epidemiological fields, given that over half of the published articles fall in these three domains (see [Figure 1](#)). We will continue to solicit high quality articles in these areas in order to maintain our established publishing niche. The Editorial Board also felt that these statistics reveal two areas we could focus on building in future issues. First, given that only 5% of our publications over the last 12 issues were in the policy realm (see [Figure 1](#)), and since a 2002 e-survey of our readership identified ‘public policy discussions on gambling’ as an area about which they would like to see more coverage ([Lange, 2002](#)), we will attempt to increase our focus on this topic in future issues. Second, given that we did not publish any articles that could be classified as pre-clinical studies in this time period, the Editorial Board discussed ways to increase the recruitment of articles on such topics as affective neuroscience, genetics, and other biological perspectives on gambling behavior and gambling problems, that would have relevance for our wide readership of researchers, clinicians, affected individuals and their significant others, and policy makers alike.

A notable new development with the *JGI* is our plan to incorporate a French language section within the journal. This section will be edited by Serge Sévigny from the Université Laval. We feel that this addition should increase the relevance of the journal to French-language scientists and practitioners by providing a publishing venue for French-speaking Canadians with interests and expertise in gambling research and treatment, as well as for those from other French-speaking countries around the world. This immediate development fits extremely well with my longer-term goal as editor-in-chief to increase the *JGI*'s visibility and impact by fostering a more national, and even international, scope for the journal. I thank the

Editorial Bboard for placing their confidence in me and for providing me with this exciting new opportunity.

References

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Figures

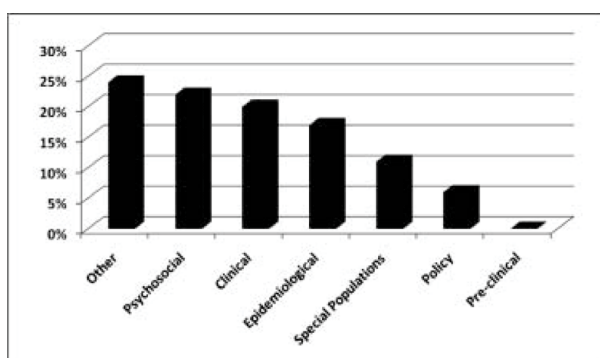


Figure 1.

Proportion of articles published over last 12 issues of *JGI* that fall into each of seven topic categories.

Article Categories:

- Editorial

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