

MOTION 3

Availability of *American Journal of Occupational Therapy* (AJOT®) on an Established Full-Text Database

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MOTION: I move that the President charge the Executive Director to contract with at least one e-journal database, such as the Academic Search Premier database, and make available the full text of all articles published in the *American Journal of Occupational Therapy* (AJOT) beginning with the year 1999 and thereafter, except for the most recent 12 months which would be cited in bibliographic format, with a report due at the Online meeting of the RA in the fall.

RATIONALE: Purpose is to make the full text of recent articles in *AJOT* available through an established electronic journal database system to researchers, practitioners, students, other professionals, and consumers around the world. Full-text means that the entire article would be available to be viewed online, saved to a disk, or printed out on any available printer attached to a computer. A full-text database provides access to an entire article which can be viewed online or downloaded to a disk or printer. In contrast a bibliographic database provides access only to information about the article such as the author, title, source, and abstract or summary. The full text of an article cannot be obtained from a bibliographic database. Information about *AJOT* articles is available on more than 20 bibliographic databases but is not available on full-text databases. Specific rationale includes the following:

- The resolution is consistent with the intent of the Association's Mission Statement, which states that the Association "advances the quality, availability, use, and support of occupational therapy through standard-setting, advocacy, education, and research on behalf of its members and the public." Making *AJOT* more accessible meets the objectives of supporting advocacy, education, and research.
- Access to the full text of articles in *AJOT* expands the availability of information around the world, where access to print copy is limited, to develop research projects that may contribute to the growing body of evidence-based literature on occupational therapy practice.
- According to the Association's Centennial Imperatives, occupational therapy must have a clear, compelling public image. *AJOT* is one of the most powerful marketing tools we have to show other professionals and consumers what occupational therapy practitioners and researchers are doing to advance the profession of occupational therapy and improve its image.
- In addition, the Centennial Imperatives state that one goal is to have the power to influence. *AJOT* provides a forum that can assist in the development of a power base for the profession by reporting the work accomplished by occupational therapy practitioners and researchers.

- Finally, full-text online access of *AJOT* would increase the visibility of the journal as a major voice of occupational therapy, increase the retrieval of occupational therapy literature in full-text database searches, and potentially increase the citation of occupational therapy articles in non-occupational therapy journals, thus increasing the visibility of the professions.

In the past, statements have been made that limited access to *AJOT* is necessary to encourage membership in the Association. The *Australian Occupational Therapy Journal* has been available full text for several years. The Australian Association of Occupational Therapists seems to be going strong, based on their performance at the World Federation of Occupational Therapists in Sydney, Australia. Equating membership to accessing the journal seems an unwarranted assumption.

Other journals that are available full text include *Occupational Therapy International* and the *Scandinavian Journal of Occupational Therapy*.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS: Mounting fees. The Association's headquarters staff have not yet obtained the initial and yearly costs of mounting *AJOT* on a full-text database. Vendors such as EBSCO Information Services, owner of Academic Search Premier, do not answer requests for cost information from individuals such as the authors of the resolution. Requests must come from a database owner such as the Association. The information should be available by the time of the RA meeting.

Digitizing fees. This resolution does not request money to digitize back issues or years of *AJOT*, only to make available those years already available in digital form, which starts in 1999. Current manuscripts are submitted in digital form so no digitizing cost is expected in the future. Therefore the cost of digitizing is zero.

Reprint income. The resolution suggests that the current year of journal articles be exempted from full-text presentation because professional journals typically report that income from reprints is highest for the most recent 12-month period of journal publication. Therefore, many journals owners provide only bibliographic information but not full-text access to journal articles published during the current 12 month period. The Association's headquarters staff did not supply the income from reprints by yearly breakdown, but the fees from reprints should not be seriously adversely affected if *AJOT* reprint requests follow the typical pattern.

Subscription income. Regarding loss of subscriptions by nonmembers, this loss is already occurring. Libraries, which make up a large part of any journal's nonmember subscriptions, are under financial pressure to reduce the cost of journal subscriptions and the cost of maintaining print copies in terms of staff processing time and floor space to house the print volumes. Any loss of income from nonmember subscriptions must be accounted for in other budget adjustments, regardless of the outcome of this resolution.

RELATIONSHIP TO THE STRATEGIC PLAN:

Goal 1.c. Increase the profession's research capacity and productivity; d: Strengthen our capacity to influence and lead

Goal 2.a. Increase public understanding of the profession and its value in meeting diverse health and participation needs

Goal 3.b. Facilitate dissemination of occupational therapy knowledge to foster innovation in research, education, and practice

Goal 3.c. Promote the dissemination and application of evidence-based knowledge