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Three years in and still going strong: An annual recap for the *Journal of Melittology*

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Abstract. The activities of the *Journal of Melittology* for its third complete year and goals for the coming year are summarized. Advances for 2015 included the automatic registration and incorporation of DOIs for each article and the release of 12 articles, collectively encompassing 202 pages.

INTRODUCTION

Another year has passed and this gives us opportunity to reflect on the achievements of the *Journal of Melittology* (JoM) during this period, as well as to make readers aware of our goals for 2016. In 2015 the journal published 12 articles, many of which treated the distributions and occurrences of bees (Montalva *et al.*, 2015; Nelson & Griswold, 2015; Orr *et al.*, 2015; Shebl *et al.*, 2015; Tripodi & Szalanski, 2015), in addition to several biological (Lucia *et al.*, 2015; Rasmussen *et al.*, 2015) and taxonomic accounts (Engel, 2015a, 2015b, 2015c; Rasmussen *et al.*, 2015). Based on our website statistics, JoM was visited and its papers downloaded from 100 different countries between 1 January and 31 December 2015, and authors from eight countries contributed to our published content. During this same period there were 3993 visits to the JoM site and 16,007 page views, both up from previous years (Engel *et al.*, 2014, 2015). Related to this, our Facebook page continues to be a major means of disseminating information about newly released articles and other commentary pertinent to the melittological community.

Although a subtle change, readers of the journal perhaps noticed this past year the incorporation of a line beneath the addresses of authors and which now provides

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an active link to a given article's DOI. Upon publication, each JoM article is given a unique identifier, providing a permanent and unique link to the publication. Although a seemingly minor augmentation, this represents a significant expansion of our digital capabilities as well as investment on the part of the University of Kansas Libraries to provide for the journal's registration. The integration of DOIs into our publication protocols is only one of the various ways in which we are striving to make JoM a lasting resource for melittological work. In 2016 our evaluation for further indexing services shall continue, and it is hoped that once incorporated these shall further expand our visibility to the scholarly community.

Given that we operate through the kindness of volunteer labor, particularly for the time-consuming tasks of manuscript layout, we have had to push for maximal efficiency. To this end, we have required authors to make certain that their text, figures, tables, and bibliography all conform to the journal's style and standards so that delays are avoided when accepted articles proceed through production. Understandably, there are always questions that arise as to what is needed by our team for this process given that our online 'Guide to Authors' is not as comprehensive as we would like. In order to ameliorate the situation, we are actively developing an extensive style manual, complete with a section for frequent problems and questions as well as a checklist for authors when putting their work into final format. This manual will be published as a special issue of JoM and we are hoping to have it completed by mid-2016. The online 'Guide to Authors' will be updated in 2016, and should cover the most basic of matters, while the more exhaustive style manual should hopefully cover any issues that an author might encounter.

As always, we are immensely grateful to a whole host of individuals who make this journal and its Open Access mission possible. Marianne Reed of the University of Kansas Libraries works daily toward the betterment of scholarly publishing and improving our digital capabilities. Our volunteer staff, who cover tasks ranging from editorial matters to InDesign layout, devote themselves fully and work often late hours, above and beyond their paid positions, in order to keep JoM moving forward. We are further thankful to our reviewers and authors who have frequently met tight deadlines and taken every consideration as they invest their time to our shared, melittological successes. A journal such as this could not exist if it were not for this host of individuals.

Lastly, but only in position on the printed page, we thank Charles D. Michener for his life-long devotion to the study of bees. The passing on 1 November 2015 of melittology's patriarch closed a life of profoundly positive influence and achievement, and marked the biggest change in JoM's brief life. Mich was the very soul of melittology, in all of its varied forms, and was active with JoM since before its inception. He was always available for advice and to handle manuscripts, either as editor or reviewer. His accomplishments in melittology were manifold, and panegyrics have and will continue to appear. On his 97th birthday and in celebration of his remarkable achievement of 80 years of scholarly publishing, JoM released a special bio-bibliographical issue (Engel, 2015d). We are thrilled that Mich was able to enjoy this unique monograph, and that he was pleased by all of the congratulatory correspondence he received as a result of its appearance (but, as always, he accepted the praise with his characteristically humble stride!). Mich was a mentor to us all, and it is difficult to imagine a world without him in it. The continued success of melittology as a science and of JoM will always be testaments to his legacy. We are grateful to have known and worked with him, and shall strive to live up to the standards he set and confidence he placed in us.



Figure 1. The greatest melittologist and JoM's inspiration, Charles D. Michener outside of the Department of Entomology's former offices in Snow Hall on the University of Kansas main campus in 1994.

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Journal of JM Melittology

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The *Journal of Melittology* is an international, open access journal that seeks to rapidly disseminate the results of research conducted on bees (Apoidea: Anthophila) in their broadest sense. Our mission is to promote the understanding and conservation of wild and managed bees and to facilitate communication and collaboration among researchers and the public worldwide. The *Journal* covers all aspects of bee research including but not limited to: anatomy, behavioral ecology, biodiversity, biogeography, chemical ecology, comparative morphology, conservation, cultural aspects, cytogenetics, ecology, ethnobiology, history, identification (keys), invasion ecology, management, melittopalynology, molecular ecology, neurobiology, occurrence data, paleontology, parasitism, phenology, phylogeny, physiology, pollination biology, sociobiology, systematics, and taxonomy.

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